Saturday
19th March, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Official Report

Volume III, 1949

(18th March to 7th April, 1949)

Fourth Session

OF THE

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

(LEGISLATIVE)

1949

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS).

Saturday, 19th March, 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS

The following member made the declaration under Rule 4:

Shri Kusum Kant Jain (Madhya Bharat).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DETENTION OF FOREIGNERS

*1203. **Shri B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any foreigners are detained in India for reasons of State and if so, what are their names?

(b) Have any prisoners been detained or sentenced under the Indian Extradition Act and if so, what are their names?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) No.

(b) A statement containing the names of persons who have been extradited, those against whom proceedings are pending and those who have been convicted or are under trial is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Extradition from India to Pondicherry from 15th August, 1947

(1) Devarasu, (2) Gobalu *alias* Vellavittu Gobalu, (3) Suprayan *alias* Motchacotte and Villapayen *alias* Tattivittu, (4) Sinbassamy *alias* Kedatalapayane, (5) Naidu Kichenin, Balakichroin, and Parasuraman, (6) Sriramulu, (7) Kuppakavundan, (8) Thangavelu Chetty, (9) A. D. Krishnin, (10) Palani.

Extradition from India to Pondicherry 1948

(1) Govindasamy *alias* Kandasamy and Darmalingam, (2) Tillenathan, (3) Perumal *alias* Vepurane (4) Sandrakesane, (5) Virasamy and Deivassigamany, (6) Rajaram, (7) Ranganatha Pandayachi, (8) Devaraju Kounder, (9) Velupillai, (10) Govindasamy, (11) Thangavelu, (12) Ganabady *alias* Kanan, (13) Kuppan and Krishnan, (14) Govindasamy Naicker, (15) Kalyanavoundan, (16) Alagappamodely, (17) Irula Sinnasamy *alias* Perumal, (18) Subramania Pillai, (19) Ayakannu *alias* Ponnusamy *alias* Govalu, (20) Arumugham *alias* Pattanathan *alias* Thangavelu *alias* Kamatchi, (21) Gabriel, John, Muthu, (22) Govindasamy Chetty, (23) Subramaniyan *alias* Zeoraman, (24) Madurai Muthu *alias* Madurai and (25) Balkrishnan *alias* Manianchetty, Govindasamy Cavoundar, Ramasamycavundar, Kuppacavundar.

Extradition from India to Pondicherry 1949.—Ramasamy *alias* Passalattan.

Extradition—Pondicherry to India—from 15th August, 1947

(1) Kuppan, (2) Subramaniam Pather, (3) Govindasamy, (4) Perumal and (5) Pethuswami Naidu

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Extradition—Pondicherry to India—1948

(1) Dhanammal, (2) Georges *alias* Joseph, (3) Jogi Kuppan, (4) Erussappan, (5) Puran *alias* Muniasamy, (6) Namasu *alias* Chinnapaya Goundan, (7) Celvarangam *alias* Shyamraj, (8) Arumuga Kramani, (9) Devarajan Kramani, (10) Subramaniam, (11) Ranganayaki Ammal, (12) Irula Krishnan *alias* Pudukan, (13) Ellappan, (14) Ramchandra Pillai (15) Natesa Padayachi, (16) Vadivelu Padayachi, (17) Purushothama Kramani, (18) Georges *alias* Joseph Marian (19) Vaithilinga Kavundan, (20) Youngman Govindassamy, (21) Damodara Kavundan, (22) Kuppa Kavundar *alias* Kithiraja Kavundar, (23) Perumal Kavundan, (24) Balakrishnan, (25) Devanayagam *alias* Rajagopal Pillai, (26) Gajendran, (27) Chinna Umaiyan (28) Peria Umaiyan, (29) Irula Pattusamy, (30) Harijan Alagoo, (31) Nanthan, (32) Seenan, (33) Ramaswami, (34) Murugesan, (35) Mannangatti, (36) Pottai, (37) Krishnan, (38) Vaitha, (39) Ekambaram, (40) Egan, (41) Kannan and (42) Chinnakanna.

Extradition—Pondicherry to India—1949

(1) Kumbakonathan *alias* Swammatha Kramani, (2) Julian, (3) Muruguesa Natar (4) Andi *alias* Kuppan.

Proceedings under the Indian Extradition Act are pending against Ramachandra Narayan Boto Apte *alias* Ramum Boto Apte in Bombay.

The following convicts and undertrial prisoners are confined at Madras:

(1) Abdul Razak—Convict.

(2) Mohamed Din—Convict.

(3) Johan Albert Nicholas Youngman—Convict.

(4) D. Rogers—Convict.

(5) Abdul Malik—Remand prisoner.

(6) Aziz Khan—Remand prisoner.

(7) Antony Vijayonake—Undertrial.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the total number, Sir, of these persons who are detained?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The total number from India is twenty-five in 1948 and one in 1949 and to India is forty-two in 1948 and four in 1949.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How many of them were detained or sentenced by the previous Government and how many by the present Government?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The number I gave is about extradition and not about detention. I am afraid the honourable member has not followed my answer.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Part (b) of my question is, "have any prisoners been detained or sentenced?" and the Deputy Minister gave the number. I want to know how many of them were detained or sentenced by the previous Government and how many by the present Government.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The figures that I gave were of persons who were extradited from India or extradited to India from outside; there is no question of their being sentenced.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: When were they detained?

Mr. Speaker: I think his question is whether there are any detentions at all.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: There are no detentions. The question (a) was whether any foreigners are detained and I said No in reply. There are no detentions.

POLITICAL PENSIONS TO FOREIGNERS

*1219. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any political pensions have been paid to foreigners and if so, to whom and what is the amount so paid?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): Yes. One.

Mst. Khatinunnessa—Rs. 36 per annum. This does not include political pensions paid to foreigners in East Punjab. The relevant records are with the Accountant General, West Punjab who has not yet furnished the necessary information.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are there any foreigners to whom allowances other than what may strictly be called "pensions" are paid by Government?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I do not think so.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are there not certain Afghans formally detenus in this country, who are paid allowances?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes. I am sorry that the exact information is not available at present, but undoubtedly we are continuing to pay pensions—some kind of allowances—to a number of Afghans who came here. Our policy generally is to reduce them after a certain period but not suddenly cut them off, because that will cause very serious inconvenience. In fact, in some cases we have actually increased the sums, because owing to the rise in prices it is impossible to live on them, but now that we have removed all restrictions on those ladies and gentlemen going away, the necessity for paying such allowances is much less.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Are these Afghans not willing to be repatriated?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a difficult question, which concerns the Government of Afghanistan, whether it is ready to have them back.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how quickly we would be able to get the information as to how many such prisoners are getting pensions?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This particular information has been laid on the Table of the House at least twice by me in the past sessions—a complete record. If the honourable member desires to have it again, it certainly can be supplied to him or he can, if he takes a little trouble to see the records, find it out for himself.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if there is any objection on behalf of the Government here for these Afghan detenus to go direct to Afghanistan?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Certainly not, there is no objection.

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Afghanistan happens to be cut off from India by Pakistan at the present moment. So the question of their trying to go to Afghanistan direct does not arise so far as we are concerned. They have to go through Pakistan or by sea or some other way. Normally speaking, any Afghan subject can go where he likes. So far as we are concerned, occasionally the question may arise about a particular individual, about whom the Government of Afghanistan might ask us not to encourage him to go there or something like that.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the reason, what is the object that the Government of India pay pensions to them?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The fact is that there are certain treaties, certain conventions, certain arrangements with Afghanistan Government in the past. We are continuing them, but the persons who are entitled

to these pensions are very small in number and we do not wish to deprive them suddenly. We are gradually adapting them to the present circumstances.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With regard to these Afghan friends, am I to understand that the Pakistan Government and not the Afghan Government, stands in the way of their going back to Afghanistan?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is not my point. They can go where they like—Pakistan or Afghanistan, but in the case of some of them, before the partition the Afghanistan Government had expressed its opinion and asked us not to allow them to come to Afghanistan.

PRODUCTION OF GYPSUM

*12. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state what effort has been made to explore new sources for the production of gypsum?

(b) What is the total quantity of gypsum available in India and what is the total requirement thereof?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Immediately after the partition of India the data available on all the gypsum deposits in the Indian Union was examined by the Geological Survey of India and a systematic survey started of those deposits on which the data was deficient. Explorations for Gypsum were started simultaneously in the Sirmur State, Cutch and Saurashtra early in 1948 and reports submitted to Government. In the light of the information contained in these reports, detailed work is being continued in Saurashtra and Sirmur State. Besides, exploratory work is also in progress on gypsum deposits in Jodhpur State.

(b) The total reserves of gypsum in India as at present estimated are about 38 million tons, but there are indications that the actual reserves may be greater still. The exact figures will be known only after the deposits have been proved according to mining practice. The consumption of gypsum in the Indian Union during the year 1948 is estimated to be in the order of 1,40,000 tons but it will increase by about .7 million tons when the Sindri Fertiliser Factory gets into full swing.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what is the result of the investigation that has been made by this officer of the Geological Department?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The result is embodied in the reply to part (b), namely, the deposits are now estimated to be 38 million tons.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that gypsum is also available in some of the Simla Hill States—Vindhya Pradesh? Has that been exploited?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: All those resources will be surveyed in due course, but those resources about which there was some information already available have been tapped and this is the result.

Shri B. N. Munavalli: Is it a fact that gypsum is found near about Khandla?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is included in Saurashtra and Cutch.

Shri H. R. Guru Reddy: Are Government aware that this gypsum is found as a bye-product on the East Coast in the Mica mines in Nellore District of Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I cannot answer that question not being a Geologist.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Has the Department brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister the fact that huge bills of gypsum are lying in Tehri State in Dehra Dun valley?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As I have already stated this kind of information continues to be received by the Geological Department and a year to year programme is fixed. If the honourable member has any further information, it will be welcomed.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what was the quantity of gypsum in Pakistan before partition?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I can only give the figures for the last available year—1945. The annual production was about 70,000 tons in the Pakistan area.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE PAID TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN DELHI

*1212. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the total amount paid as house rent allowance per month to the servants of the Government of India in Delhi?

(b) What are the plans on hand to provide Government quarters for the servants of the Government of India in Delhi, in order to avoid recurring expenditure on house rent allowances?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The figures are not readily available. It is not proposed to collect the information required, as the results will not be commensurate with the labour involved.

(b) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the statement placed on the table of the House on 3rd February, 1949, in answer to part (b) of Starred Question No. 112.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that Government servants entitled to these allowances are required to produce documentary evidence before they are given those allowances?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: If that is done, it is only elementary prudence.

RECALLING OF INDIANS SERVING ABROAD POSSESSING HIGH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

*1213. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether a census of highly qualified Scientific and Technical Personnel (Indians) serving outside India has been taken?

(b) In view of the acute shortage of these personnel in India have Government considered the question of recalling them and if not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of doing so?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). No such census has yet been prepared though the names of highly qualified Indian Scientific and Technical men and women working outside India are generally known. The question of compiling a list of Indians with scientific and technical qualifications, whether in India or abroad, is however engaging the attention of Government.

Government cannot recall any such persons serving abroad in private capacities, but whenever their services are required in India, efforts will be made to persuade them to return for work in India.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know if any Indian teachers and professors are working in the U.S.A.?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There are some very eminent Indians working in the United States.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Is there any proposal to recall them?

Mr. Speaker: I think that is already covered by the answer given by the Honourable the Prime Minister.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from the question of recalling any scientists or those employed in private concerns outside India, is care being taken to see that no scientists are sent away for non-scientific purposes or for employment outside the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I entirely agree with the honourable member's suggestion contained in his question that such persons should not be sent away. Care will be taken, but I do not know what machinery there is to exercise that care!

REFUGEES EMPLOYED THROUGH SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

*1214. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the total number of highly qualified refugees who have secured employment through the Special Employment Bureau set up for the refugees as on 1st March, 1949?

(b) What is the number of personnel according to trades on the books of the Special Employment Bureau?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (a) Upto the 1st March, 1949 the Special Employment Bureau secured employment for 667 highly qualified refugees.

The Special Employment Bureau was started on the 10th March, 1948, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. It was on the 10th October, 1948 that it was attached to the Headquarters of the Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment as a distinct and separate wing.

(b) (1) Advocates	966
(2) Professors and teachers	423
(3) Civil Engineers	83
(4) Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	82
(5) Doctors	87
(6) Businessmen	266
(7) Landlords	28
(8) Others, such as Statisticians, Accountants, Graduates Possessing Administrative banking experience, Chemists and other graduates	842
Total	2,777

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I know if any one of these persons was appointed by private industry?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not the detailed information but some of them have been employed by private industries.

Shri B. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any refugees from Sind in the Civil Engineer's list have been found employment by this Bureau or are they

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: There are few still waiting for employment. Out of 2,277 highly qualified refugees, we have been able to place 667 in employment. Some might still be unemployed.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I enquire of the Honourable Minister, if of these 677 refugees who have been given employment, are there any from Eastern Pakistan so employed?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I would like to have notice.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I enquire of the Honourable Minister if he could enlighten the House as to whether the refugees from Eastern Pakistan have been entered into the records of the Special Employment Bureau?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: If I may explain the position: this Special Employment Bureau was started by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation especially for the highly qualified personnel from Western Pakistan. As regards East Bengal, our Employment Exchange at Calcutta is registering the refugees from East Bengal and trying to place them as far as possible.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Has any private industry made a demand for such personnel?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Whenever there are demands, we supply the names and they select the most suitable person from among the panel of names that we submit.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I enquire from the Honourable Minister if he is aware that any refugees from Eastern Pakistan has been so employed in any of the Government of India services?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I can offhand say certainly they have been employed.

ENQUIRY FROM TRADE COMMISSIONERS THROUGH DIRECTOR, COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

*1215. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that replies to all enquiries made of Trade Commissioners abroad come through the Director, Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta?

(b) If so, why has this system been adopted and is there any proposal to change this?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

INDIAN DELEGATE'S SUGGESTIONS IN U. N. POLITICAL COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN KOREA

*1216. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a formula for peace in Korea was laid before the United Nations Political Committee in Paris in December 1948 by an Indian delegate; and

(b) if so, what its details and outcome were?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No.

(b) This does not arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that at Paris on the 7th December, the Indian Delegate, Mr. Setalvad placed a formula for peace in Korea on the following lines:

"(i) Independence for the whole country in the shortest possible time;
(ii) A unified Korea, without the American and Soviet zones as now;
(iii) The U.N. should not be a party to any arrangement which might weaken the prospects of independence of a unified Korea; and
(iv) The General Assembly should lend its fullest assistance to efforts to have conciliation between the two zones."?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is hardly a formula. That is part of a speech and what the speech contains is more or less what has been said repeatedly in the course of these discussions.

If the honourable member likes, I will tell him the genesis of this trouble.

It was in December 1948 I think, in the course of the last war, at the time of the conference at Cairo, that China, the United Kingdom Government and the U.S.A. declared that Korea should be a free and independent country. Later, the U.S.S.R. joined in this declaration. After that, when war had ended, it was agreed that the United States of America should accept the surrender of Japanese troops in a certain area of Korea and the U.S.S.R. should accept the surrender in a certain other area divided by the 38th Parallel. That was the genesis of the Division of Korea.

After that various resolutions were passed trying to bring about a unified and free Korea. But somehow that division has persisted. Ultimately a Commission was appointed in, I think, 1947, by the General Assembly. This Commission you may remember, tried to give effect to the resolution of the United Nations. A member of that Commission was also the Ukraine Government. But they did not attend and the Soviet Union also adopted a rather negative attitude in regard to it. The Commission could not cross the said 38th parallel; it only functioned in what is called South Korea or the American part of Korea. This difficulty has persisted since then and in fact the barriers have become higher. Meanwhile the matter was first placed before the Little Assembly and then before the United Nations and they said that we should go ahead in the part of Korea where we could function. We could not function in North Korea but we could function in South Korea. Elections were held in South Korea last year and as a result of those elections a National Government for Korea was proclaimed. It was on the 15th of August last that the Government proclaimed itself to be the national Government of Korea. The matter came up before the last session of the General Assembly where efforts were made by the Indian Delegation—as will be seen from the speech of Mr. Setalvad to which reference has been made—hoping that it might be possible by conciliation or otherwise to unite the two Koreas into an independent country. But nothing much came of it and at the present moment there are two separate countries functioning separately and a new Commission has been appointed by the United Nations of which again India is a member.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Was the Political Committee of the United Nations unanimously against the proposal or formula suggested by Mr. Setalvad?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not a formula; if I may say so, it was a suggestion that there should be a unified Independent Korea. Everybody agrees to that but how is it to be done? Merely saying that there should be conciliation does not make any formula.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the United Nations Commission for Korea defunct or still functioning?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just said that a new Commission has been appointed consisting of seven members and India is one of

PRISONERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

*1217. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitatiou be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prisoners exchanged between India and Pakistan during September-October 1948 in pursuance of the Inter Dominion agreement;

(b) whether one Nanak Iearda Ahuja convicted in Sind during the "Quit India" movement of 1942 was received in India from Pakistan; and

(c) if so, whether he has since been released?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The exchange operation startod on the 21st October, 1948, and lasted upto 3rd November, 1948, during which period 1,307 Hindus and Sikhs were repatriated from Pakistan to India and 891 Muslims were repatriated from India to Pakistan.

(b) and (c). Yes.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many prisoners received in India from Pakiatan have since been released and how many are still behind the bars?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am afraid I cannot supply the exact number but if the honourable member wants it I can supply him the information.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that Dr. Qureshi, the murderer of Dr. Joshi, on his return to Pakistan was honised in certain Pakistani circles and that he made a statement hostile to India?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it arises out of this question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: He was one of the persons sent from India to Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker: That may be.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that subsequent to the exchange of prisoners certain inmates of mental hospitals were also exchanged between India and Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes. that is so.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many were exchanged from each side?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have not got the information on hand but if the honourable member wants I can supply the information.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Did any one of them belong to Nagpur?

TOWNSHIPS FOR REFUGEES IN DELHI

*1218. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) how many townships are proposed to be built round about Delhi for refugees; and

(b) on what basis and terms will land and building materials be allotted to refugees?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Two; one at Kalkaji and the other at Sheikh Sarai.

(b) Copies of the Press Notes giving details of the basis and terms on which land and building materials will be given are laid on the table of the House.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION
(REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD)

Press Note

1. The terms on which will be leased out to refugees in the rehabilitation schemes of the Rehabilitation and Development Board are announced for general information.

For refugees of the destitute, poor and lower middle classes—

(i) for the first five years only ground rent will be recovered assessed on the cost of land plus cost of development at the Government rate of interest;

(ii) for the next 15 years, besides ground rent as above, 15 equal instalments will be recovered to cover the actual cost of acquisition and development;

(iii) in the 21st year, the lease will be renewed on ground rent calculated at the market value then prevailing, the total period of lease being 99 years;

(iv) the lease will be non-transferable for the first period of 20 years, thereafter, the lease will be transferable with the first option to Government;

(v) the above concessions will be applicable in the Shadipur, Nizamuddin, Jungpura and Malkaganj scheme.

2. For middle and upper middle classes, lease will be given on a tender basis.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION
(REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD)

Press Note

Full details of the procedure to be followed in the allotment of 357 frozen plots (42,000 sq. yds in the Western Extension (Karol Bagh) are now available:

(i) Plots will be allotted on 99 years lease on payment of a premium and annual ground rent calculated at 2½ per cent. of the premium. The ground rent and lease will be subject to revision at the end of 10, 20, 30 and 60 year rental periods, the enhancement on the first revision not exceeding 50 per cent of the original rent and the enhancement on the second and subsequent revisions not exceeding 50 per cent. of the rent fixed on the renewal previous to the one to which applied.

(ii) The allotment will be made by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, assisted by an Advisory Committee.

(iii) 25 plots at a time will be put up for tenders restricted to eligible refugees i.e., who are registered within the prescribed dates or who can produce documentary evidence of having arrived in Delhi by the prescribed date in one of the following forms:

(a) ration card or

(b) certificate of the Commandant of a refugee camp in Delhi or

(c) certificate of having obtained Government service in Delhi.

(iv) 10 per cent. of the plots will be reserved for allotment in deserving cases by the Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation. The remaining plots will be allotted to refugees in the following proportion:

Refugees from West Punjab	... 30 per cent.
Refugees from N. W. F. P.	... 30 per cent.
Refugees from Sind	... 15 per cent.
Refugees from Bahawalpur	... 15 per cent.
Refugees from Baluchistan	... 10 per cent.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION
(REHABILITATION WING)

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have drawn up a scheme to help with building materials to plotowners in Delhi who have not been able to construct their own houses for want of building materials and refugees who may be allotted plots under the various housing schemes of the Ministry. Building materials will be issued to them from the stockpile which is being maintained for the purpose by the Central P. W. D.

Applications should be made to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, who will have a Housing Controller working under him to deal with such applications. The Housing Controller will scrutinise all the applications and furnish other details to those interested.

The applicants will have to deposit, as security, a sum of money which will cover the cost of the building materials plus ten per cent. thereof as security for due observance of the conditions and contract.

Non refugee plotowners who are assisted in this way will have to place the constructed houses at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner, Delhi on a fair rental for allotment to refugees for a period not exceeding five years.

Surplus accommodation available with refugee allottees will similarly have to be surrendered to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, for allotment to other refugees.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is it not intended to build a township at Faridabad near Delhi?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Faridabad is outside Delhi; it is in East Punjab.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the estimated cost of these townships?

Mr. Speaker: Both together or individually?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Both together.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have not got the information. The cost of Kalkaji is near about two crores.

Shri H. V. Kamath: When will the building work commence?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The work has already commenced. The survey is going on and the plan is being prepared. I think the building will begin in the course of a month.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will it be done with prefabricated houses to which the Honourable Minister has referred so often in the House?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The honourable member is aware that a factory is going to be set up for manufacturing prefabricated houses but in these townships we are going to have regular houses along with pre-fabricated houses.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the cost of the construction of the township in Faridabad and may I know whether the Government of India will undertake the construction or the East Punjab Government?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The Government of India has given a loan to the East Punjab Government.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the cost of this township?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is roughly in the neighbourhood of three or four crores.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: It was stated some time back that some plots were ready in the Shadipur town expansion scheme for refugees. May I know whether it is a fact that no plots have so far been handed over to the refugees, although allotment had been made long ago?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The allotments have been made and my information is that the Houses Controlling Officer is getting the leases executed and the plots will be handed over in a few days.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: How many colonies for Harijans are proposed to be built in these two townships?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There are no separate colonies for Harijans going to be built but as I have already informed the House before these houses were to be built a proposal was made and we have constructed one such colony.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are any industries also planned to be started in these townships?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: What are they?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: They are mostly cottage industries but there may be also one or two large scale industries.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Will power and electricity be supplied to these townships?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Minister aware that complaints have been coming from refugees that certain persons are having very large areas of land and they are carrying on a sort of trade by speculation on these lands in the proposed township areas?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It has not come to my knowledge. As a matter of fact the land on which these townships are to be built has been acquired.

DISCUSSION ON ASIAN ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AT UNECAFE, CONFERENCE, LAPSTONE, AUSTRALIA

*1219. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of Asian economic and industrial development was discussed at the recent UNECAFE Conference at Lapstone, Australia; and

(b) if so, with what result?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) The Commission appointed a Committee of the Whole Commission to study the report of the Working Party on Industrial Development and take necessary action thereon. The Committee is due to meet in Bangkok at the end of March. The Committee will also consider how trade can be promoted between the ECAFE countries, how technical training can be given to the youths of these countries and how best the industrial capacity of Japan can be utilized.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Was there at this UNECAFE conference at Lapstone a fundamental cleavage of opinion between the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. Delegations with regard to the industrial development and reconstruction of this Asian region?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Yes, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What was the cleavage of opinion due to? What was the reason?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I cannot give the details but I think there was a certain difference of opinion. There was a certain amount of difference of opinion between the Big Powers with regard to the various development schemes and how to implement them.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the U.S.A. refused to lend capital for development to Asia, unless condition's were created to encourage its investment?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I do not think that in any of the speeches of the U.S.A. delegate there such a thing was hinted at.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the U.S.S.R. delegation said.....

Mr. Speaker: There must have been some reports published about it.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The better course for the honourable member would be to refer to these reports, rather than put questions about the contents of the reports.

Mr. Homi Mody: Has the question of the Marshall Aid plan for Asian countries ever been pressed on the attention of the Government of the U.S.A. by the Government of India?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Does it arise?

Mr. Speaker: The question has got reference to that—The Marshall Aid Plan.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: No, Sir.

Mr. Homi Mody: Do the Government of India regard our claim as untenable or is it that the Government of the United States will not listen to it?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: The Marshall Aid Plan is primarily meant for help to countries of the Mediterraneau region and the European region. It has not—at least for the moment it has not—been extended to countries beyond these areas, and I do not think the question of Marshall Aid arises with regard to India. But it is possible that the question of similar aid might arise.

Mr. Homi Mody: That is precisely what I mean. In view of the recent declaration of the United States, is the question going to be placed before the Government?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: It might be.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does Government propose to see that whatever aid it may receive from whatever quarter will be devoid of political, economic or military strings attached to it?

Mr. Speaker: I think the honourable member is making suggestions. I do not propose to allow these suggestions.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the UNECAFE is not devoting any attention to reconstruction of this Asian region but is only concerning itself with research for economic development, whereas the European Economic Commission is already doing solid reconstruction work in respect of the European region?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Up to this time the Conference unfortunately has only been doing research and conducting investigations. But the latest Resolution passed, which formed this Committee, has authorised the Committee to take action on these principles; and I might inform the House that it is due to the insistence and the work of the Indian members that the Committee has been invested with these powers.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any reason to fear that the interests of American industry and capital are placed above the interests of the Asian region so far as the development of this region is concerned?

Mr. Homi Mody: I was asking the Honourable Minister as to why the Government of India were not pressing upon the Government of the United States particularly in view of the latter's recent declaration of policy, the claim of Asian regions for development and special aid from the United States?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Government have pressed all these claims of India and Asia as independent countries. They do not go with begging bowl to any country.

Mr. Homi Mody: Is it suggested that the European countries which are receiving Marshall Aid went begging to the United States Government?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not for us to discuss the policies and politics of other countries in Europe; we are concerned with our own country.

Mr. Homi Mody: Then the inference does not arise in my opinion.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I, Sir, request you to see that the ECAFE Report is circulated to members of the House?

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

ALLOTMENT OF HOUSES TO REFUGEES IN DELHI

*1220. **Sardar Hukam Singh** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether there is any proportion fixed according to which refugees from each of the various Pakistan provinces are to be rehabilitated and allotted residential accommodation in Delhi?

(b) If so, what is that proportion?

(c) If not, how many houses have been allotted to refugees in Delhi and on what basis were they allotted?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Ratio of displaced persons to be rehabilitated in Delhi

	New Delhi Northern Extension Area. Houses.		Shadipur: Malkaganj; Nizamuddin Plots.		For future Allotment.	
1. For Armed Forces, Ex-Servicemen and Ex. I. N. A. personnel.	5% of the total		5% of the total		7½% of the Total	
2. West Punjab.	Nil	Of the Balance	35%	Of the Balance	50%	Of the Balance
3. N. W. F. P.	40%		20%		25%	
4. Sind	20%		20%		10%	
5. Bahawalpur	20%		15%		Nil	
6. Baluchistan	10%		10%		5%	
7. At Minister's discretion	10%		10% of the total		10% of the total.	

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any quota of houses is reserved for the Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the quota?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Ten per cent.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Why is it reserved for the Ministry specially and who distributes these houses normally?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As a matter of fact, this ten per cent. was reserved for covering up those cases which were not included either in the provincial categories or were not registered or in respect of persons who came later on—and there were deserving cases, cases of old and sick persons, widows and others who could not be covered in the remaining quota.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: But who allots the 90 per cent. quota?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The Advisory Committee.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is not a fact that at the moment there is no Advisory Committee to advise the Custodian of Evacuee's property in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is a fact that there is no Advisory Committee to the Custodian, but this Advisory Committee functions in regard to houses and plots—the houses that have been built and the new plots that are proposed to be allotted.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Has allotment been made of all the houses that have been constructed?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know the number of houses that has so far been allotted to displaced persons from West Punjab?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I could not give the exact number of the houses that have been allotted to the displaced persons from West Punjab because out of the houses there was no percentage reserved for West Punjab. But they were mostly allotted out of the quota reserved by the Ministry.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is the quota based on provincial refugees as Punjab, Sind, Bengal; if so how many were given to displaced persons from Punjab, Sind and Bengal?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I could give the proportion fixed about these houses. For instance the quota was N.W.F.P. 40 per cent., Sind 20 per cent., Bahawalpur 20 per cent., Baluchistan 10 per cent. and under the Ministry's discretion 10 per cent. Out of these 10 per cent. most of the houses went to persons coming from West Punjab.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the quota proportionate to the number of the refugees who have come?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It has been fixed in proportion to the number of refugees that have come from different provinces minus the houses that have been allotted to the displaced persons who have come from the different provinces. For instance out of the evacuee houses in Delhi about 95 or 90 per cent. were allotted to displaced persons who came from West Punjab and therefore it was considered reasonable that no quota should be reserved for them in the newly built houses.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS MULTI-PURPOSE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

†*1221. **Shri S. Nagappa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under the contemplation of Government to organize Agricultural Labourers Multi-purpose co-operative Societies throughout the country?

(b) If so, what is it?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Not at present.

(b) The question does not arise.

PIPELINE PURCHASED BY INDIAN TRADERS CORPORATION LYING IN BURMA

*1222. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any representation has been received from the Indian Traders Corporation, regarding Rupees Seven lakhs worth of pipeline purchased by them from the United States Authorities in 1946 and which is lying in the territory of the Union of Burma?

(b) Have the Government of the Union of Burma been approached to

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

allow the pipeline to be exported either to India or to the United States of America or to pay for it to the Indian Traders Corporation?

(c) If not, do Government propose to take any action in the matter?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) The Indian Ambassador was requested to render necessary assistance; the firm, however, have directly submitted an application to the Government of Burma on 31st December, 1948.

(c) Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by approaching the Government of Burma at present, but they will consider the matter after the decision of the Government of Burma on the firm's application is known.

EXPORT OF MILL CLOTH TO MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

*1223. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether any mill cloth has been exported from India to the Middle East countries during the last 12 months and if so, how much?

(b) Why was this export allowed by Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes. 22·58 million yards were exported during the 12 months ending December 1948.

(b) Export of cloth to all permissible destinations including the Middle East countries is allowed in limited quantities in order to earn foreign exchange and to retain markets which have been built up by us during the war.

Sardar Hukam Singh: During this period were not our own internal needs pressing and the supply was inadequate to meet the demand?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should not think so. As a matter of fact I might inform the honourable member that the quantity actually exported to the Middle East countries in 1946 was 121 million yards. It went down to 63·98 million yards in 1947; and as I have just stated the quantity actually exported to these countries in the last year, namely 1948, was 22·58 million yards. The figure has been definitely decreasing year by year.

Seth Govind Das: May I know what we got from the Middle East countries in return for our cloth? Did we get any particular commodities which our country requires?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: There is no barter agreement at all. As I have indicated we earn foreign exchange, and apart from that we maintain some of the markets that we built up during the war at some sacrifice to ourselves.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it a fact that the cloth that we exported to the Middle East is of such poor quality that complaints have been pouring in from those countries against the supply and that we are really losing the market instead of gaining?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not absolutely sure about the Middle East countries generally, but it is a fact that complaints of this character have come from certain export markets.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the quantity exported from India to East Africa?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid that is not included in this question. I have not got the figure.

Shri Mohan Lal Gautam: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state the names of the countries and the quantities of cloth that were exported to them?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is a somewhat long list. If my honourable friend is interested I can send him a copy of the list that I have before me.

Seth Govind Das: If complaints have been received from these countries, may I know what the Government is doing to see that now only such cloth is sent there that our market may be kept?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We have had discussions with the industrialists concerned in the first instance and we are now considering the question of setting up some organisation for the purpose of standardising articles for export.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether any quantity of handloom cloth is exported to these Middle East countries?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The figures that I have given relate, only to mill-made cloth.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I want to know if any handloom cloth is exported to these countries.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should think so.

Shri B. N. Munavalli: May I know whether the import of cotton manufactures was on the increase in 1948?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have not got the figures here, but some amount of import is definitely taking place.

MANAGEMENT OF MAHABODHI TEMPLE AT BUDDHA GAYA BY BUDDHIST REPRESENTATIVES

*1224. **Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a resolution adopted by the preliminary session of the World Buddhist Congress urging the Government of India to vest the management of the Mahabodhi temple at Buddha Gaya in a body of Buddhist representatives?

(b) Has any action been taken on it and if not, why not?

(c) What action have the Government of India taken or propose to take on the demand made in this Buddhist Congress that Buddhist colonies should be established at Raj Griha, Sarnath and Buddha Gaya?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Government have seen a report of this resolution in the press.

(b) and (c). No formal approach has been made to the Government of India in this matter which is primarily the concern of the Government of Bihar. Government are aware however that for many years past Buddhist organisations have asked for a change in the management of the Buddha Gaya temple. A number of interests are involved and the matter once went up to the Privy Council and was decided against the claims of the Buddhists.

Government are of opinion however, and they understand that the Government of Bihar are in agreement with this opinion, that there should be a recognition of the international character of this famous temple and that the management should be changed accordingly so as to allow all interests, including Buddhist interests, to be represented. The Government of Bihar have recently published a Bill called the Buddha Gaya Temple Bill—1948; under which the Provincial Government are authorised to constitute a committee for the management and control of this Temple, the Temple land and properties appertaining

thereto. This committee, it is proposed, should consist of both Buddhists and Hindus.

It is for the Provincial Government to consider whether any lands should be granted for the establishment of colonies. If any feasible proposal to this effect is made, the Provincial Government will no doubt give consideration to it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Now that the Buddhist *Dharma Chakra* of Asoka *Priyadarshi* has been inscribed on our national banner, does not Government propose to give an honoured place to Buddhist *bhikshus* in the life of our nation?

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

*1225. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the names of those International Organizations to which India pays annual subscriptions separately?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): A statement giving the names of the International Organisations to which India pays annual subscriptions separately is laid on the table.

STATEMENT

International Organisations to which India pays Annual subscriptions separately

(1) United Nations Organizations,
(2) International Council of Scientific Unions,
(3) International Astronomical Union,
(4) International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics,
(5) International Union of Geography,
(6) International Wheat Council,
(7) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,
(8) International Labour Organization,
(9) World Health Organization,
(10) International Union against Cancer, Paris,
(11) International Tin Study Group,
(12) International Telecommunications Union,
(13) The Universal Postal Union,
(14) International Civil Aviation Organization,
(15) International Meteorological Organization,
(16) Commonwealth Communications Council, London,
(17) Food and Agricultural Organization,
(18) International Customs Tariff Bureau, Brussels,
(19) Imperial War Graves Commission,
(20) Central Bureau, International One Million Map of the World,
(21) Contracting Parties to the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade,
(22) Inter Allied Reparations Agency at Brussels,
(23) Commonwealth Shipping Committee,
(24) International Cotton Advisory Committee,
(25) The World Engineering Congress,
(26) The International Electric Technical Conference,
(27) The World Power Conference,
(28) The International Commission on Large Dams,
(29) International Railway Congress Association, Brussels,
(30) Permanent Association of International Road Congress.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the total amount of subscription?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I am sorry I have not got the figures regarding subscriptions.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is India's representation on each of these international organisations commensurate with the subscriptiou she pays to these organisations?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Our representation differs on different organisations and the constitutions of these organisations are quite different from each other.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any one organisation at all where it is commensurate with the subscription that we pay?

Mr. Speaker: It is difficult for him to say whether it is commensurate or not commensurate.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that the rates of subscription were fixed by the previous regune, the British Government?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: If my honourable friend will look at the list of organisations, he will find that some of them have been existing for quite a long time and some have come into being recently. It cannot be said that the subscription was fixed by the previous regime—it might be so with regard to certain of them.

Separate Ministry of Economics and Planning

*1226. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a Ministry of Economic Affairs?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Government do not contemplate at present the establishment of a separate Ministry of Economics and Planning. The question of planning has been considered by Government on several occasions. The report of the Advisory Planning Board presided over by Shri K. C. Neogy, recommended the formation of a Planning authority. This report was generally approved by Government and it has been their intention to have some organization for overall planning. Government have felt however that before such an organization or authority is set up certain preliminary steps should be taken to that end. They have therefore constituted an Economic Committee of the Cabinet. Also an Economic Coordination Section and a separate statistical unit of the Cabinet.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Do Government propose to set up a National Planning Commission as proposed in the Industrial Truce Resolution?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, that is what I have said. We certainly intend to do so, but we wish to take certain preliminary steps before finally putting up the Commisaion or authority.

Conference of Foreign Ministers of Commonwealth Countries

*1227. **Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is going to be a conference of Foreign Ministers of the different Commonwealth Countries in Ceylon;

(b) whether India is attending the conference;

(c) the purpose of the conference; and

(d) the subjects proposed to be discussed?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there going to be such a Conference in London in the near future?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is some talk about it.

REPARATIONS FROM JAPAN

*1228. **Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of Mr. Kenneth Royall and of Mr. Dean Acheson at a press conference at Washington published in Delhi papers of the 18th February, 1949 that "the United States of America has indicated that it seeks no reparations from Japan, but other members of the commission have been unable to arrive at the proportion of the reparations each should receive";

(b) whether India is demanding any reparations from Japan and if so, how much and why; and

(c) whether India has any representative in the Far Eastern Committee that deals with Japanese reparations?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes, I did see the press reports referred to. On enquiry, however, I understand that no such statement was in fact made at the Press Conference, and that it was an addition made by the Correspondent of a News Agency without authority.

(b) Yes. A share of 12½ per cent. of the Japanese internal industrial facilities has been claimed on behalf of India. One of the terms in the Potsdam Declaration for Japanese surrender is that Japan shall be permitted to maintain such industries as will sustain her economy and permit exaction of just reparations in kind. It is in pursuance of this Joint decision of the Allies that India along with other claimant countries has demanded her share of reparations from that country.

(c) India is represented in the Far Eastern Commission by her Ambassador in the United States of America.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know the basis of the justification for such a demand by India for reparations from Japan when India herself refused to join the war?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: India refused to join the war?

Shri Biswanath Das: Yes, she did.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not aware of any such refusal.

Shri Biswanath Das rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is getting into an argument.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In view of the fact that the Congress, which has now formed the Government, was not a party to the war against Japan, does not India propose to forego her share of Japanese reparations as a friendly gesture to the Japanese nation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, mine is a definite question and it needs a definite reply.

Mr. Speaker: But it does not ask for information. It is a definite question which needs a definite reply, but it is more or less a sort of an argument which the honourable member is advancing and going into the previous politics in the

previous set-up. I do not propose to have any arguments over the question. If he has any further question to ask for information, be may do so.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that if India decides to forego its part of the reparations the advantage will go to some other country and not to Japan?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is not asking for information, it is going into an argument.

Geological Survey of Orissa

*1229. **Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a geological survey of Orissa was sanctioned by the Government of India and begun in 1939;

(b) whether it is a fact that the programme of survey could not be completed due to war;

(c) whether the mineral wealth of Orissa and the Orissa states have been properly surveyed; and

(d) whether Government have considered the need of undertaking an early survey of both the States and Province of Orissa?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given in this House on the 30th March 1948, to his starred Question No. 1080.

(b) During the war, the survey work in Orissa and States was mainly directed to the search for minerals of economic importance to help the war effort. Since the cessation of the war, a large number of investigations was undertaken in Orissa and the Orissa States during the field season 1946-47, a list of which was laid on the table of the house on the 30th March 1948 while replying to the starred question referred to above. A list marked 'A' showing the work done in 1947-48 is now laid on the table. In addition two further lists, one marked 'B' showing the investigations included in the current field programme, and the other marked 'C' showing the items to be taken up during the current field season as requested by the Government of Orissa, are also placed on the table.

(c) and (d). A considerable amount yet remains to be done in Orissa including the States as in other parts of India. Everything possible is however being done within the limitation imposed by availability of staff and finance.

LIST 'A'

Showing the work carried out by the Geological Survey of India in Orissa and the Orissa States in 1947-48 referred to in Starred Question No. 1229.

1. Continuation of the systematic mapping of the Keonjhar district.
2. Continuation of the mapping of the Sambalpur district.
3. Investigation of the Limestone deposits in the Ganjam district.
4. Investigation of Mica-bearing pegmatites in the Ganjam district.
5. Investigation of manganese-ore deposits in Patna State, Eastern States Agency.
6. Examination of clay and glass-sand deposits in Talchar State, Eastern States Agency.
7. Detailed investigation of the manganese-ore deposits in Nairakhol State, Eastern States Agency.

8. Examination of limestone deposits in—

(i) Korchabadi muttah,

(ii) Dhanupatna, Orebagodo and Sinkulipodar in Chandragiri muttah,

(iii) Nuagodo muttah,

(iv) Tolarsingi village, and

(v) Dadadev hill.

9. Examination of red ochre in the Hachipenga hill in the Chandragiri muttah, and Muromu in the Udayagiri muttah.

10. Examination of chalk deposits at Bubudisingi in Udyagiri muttah.

11. Examination of ironore at Lobagudi and Kandanga.

12. Examination of China clay in Odaba muttah on the Bank of the Haribhanga river near Udaba village, and at Bharamarpur three miles to the north-east of Khijuripada.

13. Examination of mica deposits—

(i) near Mohana on the Nangamatla hill,

(ii) near Gamangada on the river Haribhanga,

(iii) at Tolarasingi in Korchabadi muttah,

(iv) in Odaba muttah,

(v) on the Gangodo hill in Ramagiri muttah, and

(vi) near Beera Lukhshminarayanpur samau, near Duargun estate.

14. Investigation of the subsoil water supply of Mahalla Mirpatna, Kandrapara Town.

15. Survey of mineral resources in the Koraput district.

16. Investigation of the underground water supply of the Balasore district in the following areas :—

(i) The area in the Soolar Sub-division of the Balasore district lying to the west of the railway line between Balasore and Khantpara railway station.

(ii) The area in Bhadrak Sub-division of the Balasore district towards the east of Bhadrak Chandbali road. The triangular area between Bhadrak Chandbali and Bhadrak Bhandevpur consisting of 3 to 10 miles.

(iii) The area between the Kathjuri and Khusakai rivers lying towards the east of the Cuttack-Puri Road—Phulnakhara area.

(iv) The area in Ganjam district lying between the sea and the railway line within the two railway stations, Hume and Chatrapur.

17. The stability of the present yield of the Kinjhole spring at Rayagada to be used as the source for Rayagada Town water supply in view of the unstable nature of the surrounding ground.

18. Investigation of the feasibility of tube-wells and other sources of drinking water for town supply in :

(i) Jeypore and Nowrangpur, in the Koraput district,

(ii) Parlakimedi in the Ganjam district, and

(iii) the coastal belt in the Balasore and Cuttack districts.

19. Location of suitable road metal for :—

(a) the Sohella Hawapara road, Sambalpur district,

(b) the Angul-Cuttack road from Moramundali road station to Naapatna on the Mahanadi river, Cuttack district,

(c) the Sambalpur-Jharsuguda road for the first ten miles up to Saora, Sambalpur district,

(d) the road from Khariar road station to Khariar, Sambalpur district.

20. Inspection of a bridge site at Rampur Nullah, Bairakhol State.

21. Investigation of the Mahanadi valley project.

22. Electrical prospecting for graphite deposits in Athmallik State, Eastern States Agency.

LIST 'B'

Showing the investigation included in the current field programmes of the Geological Survey of India.

1. Investigation of underground water supply of the following areas and selection of probable sites for trial-borings :

   (a) Waste land lying between the Barunai Hills and the slope down to the road connecting Khurda Town and Khurda Road.

   (b) Waste land on the west of the railway line between Khurda Road Station to Bhubaneswar.

   (c) Waste land on the west of the road from Jajpur Road Station to Keonjhar.

2. Continuation of the systematic mapping of the Koraput district.

3. Continuation of the systematic mapping of the Sambalpur district.

4. Continuation of mapping in the Ganjam district.

5. Systematic mapping of Rairakhol and Sonapur States in continuation of Dr. A. G. Jhingran's mapping in sheet 73 C/4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 73 D/1 and 64 O/16, 64 L/13 bearing to the East and North of Mahanadi.

6. Detailed examination of graphite deposits in—

   (a) Athmallik States.

   (b) Sargipali area in Sambalpur district.

7. Detailed examination of the bauxite deposits in—

   (a) Nayagarh State.

   (b) Sambalpur district.

8. Inspection of a bridge site at Rampur Nullah, Rairkhol State.

9. Detailed examination of Chromite deposits in Keonjhar State.

10. Systematic mapping and search for glass sand and fire clay in—

   (a) Dhenkanal State.

   (b) Athgarh State.

   (c) Hindol State.

   (d) Baramba State.

11. Electric Survey for fresh water on the Orissa Coast. Areas to be selected later.

12. Survey of Ilmenite and Monazite sands on the coastal areas of South Ganjam district.

13. Further detailed geological investigations connected with the Hirakud dam project, Mahanadi Valley.

14. Further examination of the Tikapara dam site on the Mahandi river.

LIST 'C'

Showing the items to be taken up during the current field season as requested by the Government of Orissa

1. Investigation of the possibility of probable water supply at Dhoora for the proposed new port there.

2. Investigation of trap metal quarried along—

   (a) Berkera-Mimbarpur Road, 15½ miles long.

   (b) Chendipada-Bagdia Road (in continuation of AngulChendipada Road)—4½ miles long.

3. Investigation of the possibility of sub-terranean water supply in Kendrapara, Cuttack district.

4. Investigation of the occurrence of Vermiculite in Orissa.

5. *Ganjam district* :

   (a) Investigation of the supply of unfailing sources of drinking water to the areas under the Parlakimedi Municipality.

   (b) Possibility of sub-terranean water supply in Parlakimedi.

6. *Balasore district:*

Investigation of the possibility of getting good drinking water instead of saline in coastal areas along the Bay of Bengal from Bhogerai down to Chandbali and Dhamnagar on the river Baitarani, and the possibility of sinking deep perennial wells in the western hill tracts of the district bordering the State areas.

7. *Puri district:*

Investigation of possibility of good drinking water in the following places:—

(i) near Sakhigopal Temple—Sakhigopal

(ii) In the village Banbarada in Satyabadi Police Station

(iii) In the village near Maltipatpur in Sadar Police Station.

(iv) In the village Chandanpur near Cuttack-Puri Road in Sadar Police Station.

8. *Cuttack district:*

(a) Investigation of the possibility of getting good drinking water in coastal areas of the district especially in areas such as Apila in Bremna Police Station, Kanupur, Sidhan and Ekonalia in Aul Police Station and their adjoining villages.

(b) Examination of the minerals of the Jalanka Hills in Barchana Police Station.

ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE RESOLUTION re REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORT OF ESSENTIAL GOODS

*1239. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Engineers' Conference held in New Delhi from 21st to 25th February, 1949 resolved to request Government to remove or relax the restrictions on import of essential goods like machinery for electric power projects?

(b) Do Government agree with the principle of the resolution and if so, what steps do they intend to take in the matter?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) The recommendation is now under consideration of Government.

DISPOSAL OF EVACUEES PROPERTY AFTER INTER-DOMINION CONFERENCE HELD AT KARACHI

*1233. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether, after the Inter-Dominion Conference held in Karachi and the decision arrived thereat regarding the evacuees property, any building has been sold in either Dominion and if so, how many?

(b) Is it a fact that recently the Government of Pakistan have issued a notification that only 20 per cent. of the recorded rent will be recovered from refugee tenants and that a rebate of a further 10 per cent. will be given for prompt payment?

(c) If so, who will pay the balance of 80 per cent. to the owners of properties?

(d) Have Government taken this matter up with the Government of Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) No sales or exchanges have been registered uptil now in either Dominion.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The Government of India have taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and their reply is awaited.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know, whether after the Karachi Conference, the Pakistan Government issued a Press note that no person other than a Pakistani will be allowed to stay for more than 15 days unless he produces an income-tax

certificate; and if so, whether that was not in contravention of the agreement arrived at in Karachi, and what steps Government have taken in the matter?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I will give the reply in answer to the next question.

Mr. Speaker: I may point out that the next question will not be permitted to be asked

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: A number of communications have been exchanged with the Pakistan Government and every effort is being made to expedite a decision.

At the meeting of the Inter-Dominion Commission held on the 11th and 12th March, 1949, the Pakistan delegates agreed to consider relaxing their Income-tax law and extending the present period of exemption from obtaining the Income-tax Clearance Certificate from 15 days as at present to 30 days except in the case of the federal capital, Karachi, for which the period of 15 days will continue as before.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Are the Government satisfied with the extension, and that there has been no contravention of the agreement?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know what steps Government intend to take to secure proper rents? Only 20 per cent. will be recovered, and there is another rebate of 10 per cent. What is to become of the rest 90 per cent of the rent?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have already stated that correspondence is going on. The Pakistan Government are making recovery of at least 20 per cent., otherwise there is no chance of recovering any rent, the people being so poor.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: But what was the agreement arrived at?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There was no agreement in respect of that. The only provision was that a Liaison Officer will be appointed in either Dominion who will keep in touch and see that proper rents are realised. Until the Liaison Officer is appointed we cannot say whether the decisions made are justified or aimply meant to deprive the displaced persons of their due share.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What steps have Government taken to see that under the terms of the Agreement proper rents are recovered? Has Government taken any steps in that direction?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have already said that as soon as the Liaison Officer goes there, he will get in touch and see whether proper rents are being realised or not.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that for the houses in India full rents are being charged from the refugees who have occupied the houses of the evacuees?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Rents are being charged, but I will not be prepared to say that they are fully realised.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In view of the fact that full rent is not being charged by Pakistan, does the Government intend not to pay the rents realised from here, unless full rent is realised from Pakistan side?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As a matter of fact no rent realised here or there has been yet paid. After the Liaison Officer is appointed, and he is satisfied that proper rent is being recovered in Pakistan, then the settlement will be effected.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that it is a clever device on the part of Pakistan Government to reduce the value of the property of the refugees from Pakistan?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: When is the Liaison Officer to be appointed?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: He has been appointed and he will be going to Lahore tomorrow.

PRODUCTION OF INCOME-TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES BY PERSONS LEAVING PAKISTAN

†*1232. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have received reply to their letters and reminders regarding the Press Note issued by the Government of Pakistan after the Karachi Conference that no person other than a Pakistani will be allowed to leave Pakistan without a certificate of Income-tax and if not, what steps have Government taken in the matter?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: A number of communications have been exchanged with the Pakistan Government, and every effort is being made to expedite a decision.

At the meeting of the Inter-Dominion Commission held on the 11th and 12th March, 1949, the Pakistan delegates agreed to consider relaxing their Income-tax law and extending the present period of exemption from obtaining the Income Tax Clearance Certificate from 15 days as at present to 30 days except in the case of the federal capital, Karachi, for which the period of 15 days will continue as before.

REFUGEES LIVING IN CAMPS IN BOMBAY

*1233. **Shri A. V. Thakkar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many displaced persons from Pakistan reside in each of the various camps in the suburbs of the city of Bombay including Kalyan?

(b) How many of them are supplied with free rations and how many purchase their own?

(c) On what dates were these camps established?

(d) What is the arrangement for rehabilitating them in various vocations?

(e) What is the daily expenditure incurred by Government on each of these camps?

(f) What is the total estimated budget of expenditure on this account for the year 1949-50?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) Rehabilitation of displaced persons in vocations is being arranged by:

(i) Granting them loans for starting business or vocations;

(ii) Building new Townships;

(iii) Providing Vocational Training at Government expense.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(iv) Construction of Stalls for them, allotting them plots for industrial purposes etc.,

(e) The information is not readily available; but it is approximately Re. 1/- per head.

(f) A provision of Rs. 6 crores and 50 lakhs has been made in the Central Budget for 1949-50 for all the Provinces for relief only. Separate allotment for Bombay Province has not yet been allocated.

STATEMENT

Population of the Camps in the suburbs of the City of Bombay including Kalyan:

Name of the camp		*Population*
Chembur	...	10,244
Kurla	...	1,241
Pawai	...	1,503
Virar	...	...
Mulund	...	1,770
R. M. I. S. Akbar	...	10,226
Kalyan	...	96,811
Madh Island	...	8,124

Shri A. V. Thakkar: May I enquire if Government has any intention of stopping the free ration that is being given to these large numbers?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There is every intention on the part of Government to liquidate this free feeding. In fact, in Bombay we have prepared a scheme in which we expect that this free feeding will be stopped within six months.

NON-MUSLIM REFUGEES IN KASHMIR

†*1234. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindu and Sikh refugees in Jammu and Kashmir State;

(b) the number and situation of camps in which such refugees have been provided with shelter;

(c) the number and names of such camps under the charge of the Government of India; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for rehabilitation of the refugees belonging to Jammu and Kashmir State areas which have been retaken by the Indian Army?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) About 1,95,200.

(b) There are seven main camps consisting of 44 sub-camps in the Kashmir Valley. In Jammu there are six camps, two in Jammu city one at Nagrotta, one at Akhnur and one at Poonch.

(c) 2—Nagrota and Chatha.

(d) The Jammu and Kashmir Government are assisting displaced persons by giving them free transport from the camps to their homes granting loans for repair and reconstruction of houses, purchase of bullocks, agricultural implements or for starting trade, granting free rations to destitute displaced persons settled on land till the crop matures, and free clothes and bedding to deserving

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

displaced persons. In Jammu so far, 2,100 families have been given assistance in the form of loans for the reconstruction of their houses. The total amount advanced is Rs. 2·75 lakhs, and besides this 1·00 lakh c.ft. of timber has been supplied free. In all about 1,500 houses have been constructed so far.

TRANSFER OF PENSIONS FROM PAKISTAN

†*1235. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pensioners who have come to India from Pakistan during the disturbances of 1947;

(b) the number of such persons who have got their pensions transferred from Pakistan to India;

(c) what facilities the Government of India provided for such persons in getting their pensions transferred; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to expedite the transfer of such pensions as have not been transferred so far?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) It was agreed at the Inter-Dominion Secretariat Level Conference held in December, 1947, that all Provincial Governments should take definite measures to facilitate the transfer of pension papers with the least possible delay.

It was further agreed that all complaints by pensioners in either Dominion should be made to the Auditor General of the Dominion in which the pensioner now resides.

Pending transfer of pension papers pensioners are being paid provisionally by the Accountant General concerned, after the latter has satisfied himself in regard to the identity of the pensioner and the amount of pension due to him and after he has obtained an indemnity bond with two sureties from the pensioner.

(d) The Government of India do not consider it necessary at this stage to take any further steps.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LAND RESTORED TO MUSLIMS IN DELHI AND EAST PUNJAB

97. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state what is the total area of land in East Punjab and Delhi Provinces restored to Muslims who quitted their lands at first and subsequently came back?

(b) How much of this area had been allotted to refugees before such restoration?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) 46,092 acres of land in the East Punjab and 794 acres of land in Delhi Province.

(b) 4,517 acres in the East Punjab and 129 acres in Delhi Province.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

LAND LEFT BY NON-MUSLIMS IN WEST PUNJAB AND BY MUSLIMS IN EAST PUNJAB

98. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the area of land left in West Punjab by the non-Muslims who have migrated to India after partition of the country?

(b) What is the area of land left in the East Punjab by Muslims who have migrated to Pakistan after the partition?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) 77·2 lakh acres.

(b) 42·86 lakh acres.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED REFUGEES REGISTERED WITH SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

99. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of highly qualified displaced persons registered with the Special Employment Bureau;

(b) the number of such persons provided with jobs;

(c) the number of displaced lawyers registered with the Special Employment Bureau; and

(d) the number of such lawyers provided with jobs?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) 2,777.

(b) 667.

(c) 966.

(d) 230.

ALLOTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS PREMISES TO REFUGEES IN DELHI

100. **Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons who have been allotted residential premises in Delhi by the Custodian of Evacuees Property;

(b) the number of displaced persons who have been allotted business premises in Delhi by the Custodian of Evacuees Property;

(c) the number of displaced persons who have been provided with newly constructed houses in Delhi;

(d) the number of displaced persons provided with sites for building houses;

(e) the number of displaced persons who are licensees of the Custodian of Evacuees Property, Delhi and whose allotment has not so far been confirmed;

(f) the number of displaced persons who have been allotted residential and business accommodation by the Custodian of Evacuees Property but have not so far been put in possession of the premises; and

(g) the number of displaced persons yet living in camps?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) 28,798 residential premises have so far been allotted to 30,441 families of displaced persons.

(b) Nearly 4,000.

(c) 2,067 families.

(d) 1,000 plots to 1,000 families have been allotted so far and allotment of another 4,500 is in hand.

(e) 8,387. The number of those licensees who have been confirmed as allottees is not available at present.

(f) About 1,700. Most of the ineffective allotments have been cancelled.

(g) 42,313 in Delhi Camps.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LOAN TO PAKISTAN BY HYDERABAD GOVERNMENT

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press report in which the Minister of Finance of Pakistan is reported to have said in the Pakistan Parliament that the action taken by the Government of India, in the matter of the so-called loan of Rs. 20 crores by the Hyderabad Government to Pakistan, constituted a unilateral repudiation of solemn financial agreements and contractual liabilities; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government do not propose to take any action. There has been no repudiation of any financial agreements or contract by the Government of India. The Government of Hyderabad are the lawful holders of the securities in question and the Government of India's obligations to them will be fully met. What the Government of India have declined to do is to recognise the transfer of the securities to the Pakistan Government which the Hyderabad Government were not competent to make.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST INDIA BY PREMIER OF N.W.F.P.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Communique issued by the N.W.F.P. Government, which is published on page 1 of the Hindustan Times, dated the 15th March, 1949, and the statement made in the Assembly by the Premier of that Province in the course of which, while giving reasons for the arrest of Red Shirts of Hazara District, serious allegations have been made against India?

(b) If so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). Yes, the attention of the Government has been drawn to the communique issued by the North West Frontier Province Government in which various allegations have been made about a plot in which Red Shirts in the Hazara District are said to be involved. Government have seen this communique with surprise and great regret. While the communique does not mention the Government of India specifically, the entire wording of the communique insinuates that the Indian Union is a party to some plot against the North West Frontier Province Government and the Pakistan Government and it is stated that money has passed from India to the Red Shirts. So far as they are concerned, the Government of India repudiate these allegations and they have made a strong protest to the Pakistan Government in regard to the insinuations contained in the communique of the North West Frontier Province Government, which must have an injurious effect on the relations between the two Dominions.

2. Government have refrained from expressing any opinion so far in regard to the very serious happenings in the Frontier Province as well as the Tribal areas in the North West because of their desire not to interfere, in any way,

with the internal affairs of other Governments. They have, however, viewed these developments during the past year with increasing concern. It is well-known that the *Khudai Khidmatgars*, or the Red Shirts as they are sometimes called, under the leadership of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Dr. Khan Sahib, played a very notable part in the struggle for the freedom of India from foreign domination. The high integrity, selflessness and patriotism of these leaders have been admired not only all over India but in other parts of the world. They showed a remarkable example of peaceful action, even under the greatest provocation, and set a standard which it was not easy to follow even in other parts of India. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan took the doctrine of non-violent action to the brave and warlike Pathans and turned their great energy into peaceful channels. Perturbed by the partition of India, he nevertheless accepted it in all sincerity and publicly declared his adherence to the new order of things, claiming, however, that the Pathans were entitled to autonomy in regard to their internal affairs. He followed this policy of accepting Pakistan, but at the same time standing peacefully for the internal freedom of the Pathans, and it is impossible for any person acquainted with this gallant fighter for freedom to believe that he can be associated in any way with any under-hand activities. His outstanding qualities are straightforwardness, integrity, courage and a devotion to the cause of his people.

3. While the Government and the people of India, having accepted partition and its consequences, loyally abided by these changes and did not wish to interfere with local happenings within Pakistan, it was impossible for them not to take the deepest interest in the fate of some of the bravest and finest soldiers of freedom that India had produced. They were distressed, therefore, at the series of happenings in the Frontier Province during which intense repression took place of the peaceful *Khudai Khidmatgars*, and their leaders were more especially subjected to treatment of a kind which one would not expect any Government to meet out. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a man of the highest standing for a generation past in India, has been kept in solitary confinement for over a year and his health has suffered greatly during this period. I do not wish to recount all that has happened in the Frontier Province during this past year and more, but the tale that has reached us from time to time is a sorry one. We have remained quiet and we have not had any kind of contact with the *Khudai Khidmatgars* or their leadres ever since the Partition, but the sufferings of our old comrades of the days of our fight for India's freedom have distressed us exceedingly.

4. In the communique issued by the North West Frontier Province Government Sheikh Abdullah and Kashmir have been mentioned. It will be remembered that the Frontier Province Government, and more particularly its Premier, played a very active part in organising and helping the raiders to enter Kashmir in October 1947 and onwards. In particular it is well-known that his activities in regard to Kashmir have been most objectionable.

5. In conclusion, I would like to repeat that we regard the communique issued by the North West Frontier Province Government as unwarranted by fact and unfortunate in its effect on Indo-Pakistan relations which we have been trying to improve.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, if any reply been received from the Pakistan Government so far?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No reply has come to us yet.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Do Government propose to take this matter up in the next Inter-Dominion Conference?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We shall consider that matter.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: On what date the protest was sent, Sir?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: About three days ago.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has our old friend and colleague Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan stated that he would welcome the end of partition and in union of Pakistan and India?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the honourable member is referring to, but I can remember no such statement.

HUNGER STRIKE BY REFUGEES IN KINGSWAY RELIEF CAMP

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some refugees belonging to Kingsway Relief Camp have been on hunger strike as a protest against Government's decision to stop their subsistence allowance and that the condition of one of them is serious;

(b) whether any representation was received by Government detailing their demands; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes.

(b) The hunger strikers gave no previous notice of their demands or of their intention to go on hunger strike to the Government.

(c) The strike is now over.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that these hunger strikers or inmates of these camps are asked to go to C.P. and they demanded of the Government that there should be a definite plan as to where they are going to be rehabilitated, the Government was not in a position to satisfy that demand, and that was the reason for the strike?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I may say emphatically that it is not so and that nobody is being sent to C.P.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: To which other place it was proposed to send them?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There is no question of their being sent anywhere. As a matter of fact, we gave them two months' notice and that after that period only those Government servants who were going to work will be given rations. That is all and the honourable member must have seen the demands that appeared in the newspapers; he must have seen that one of the demands is that they should be provided with employment, or failing that, they must be given 75 per cent. as pay. That is one of the demands. There is no question of their being sent to any other place. So, they are going to be settled here, if they are employed, and if they do not want to go, we cannot ask them to go forcibly, and if they want help from us, they will be sent to other places.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not proposed to disband this Camp?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is not proposed to disband this Camp. It is proposed to convert it into a residential camp.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: Is it a fact, Sir, that the hunger strikers were instigated by some Government servants?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes; as a matter of fact, the honourable member must have learnt from the newspapers that from the

interview given by the Chief Commissioner, it appeared that some of the camp's employees were involved in instigating the strike.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: May I know, if any action has been taken against those Government servants?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I hope the Chief Commissioner will make the necessary enquiries and take necessary action.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I ask whether the employees were the refugees themselves?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: They are refugees.

Saturday
19th March, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)]

Official Report

Volume III, 1949

(19th March, 1949 to 5th April, 1949)

Fourth Session

OF THE

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE)

1949

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES.

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.)

Saturday, 19th March, 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-50 A.M.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*concld.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: A request has been made that a large section of the House wishes to have time for discussion of Relief and Rehabilitation matters. Therefore, I will allot a day. I am allotting the Saturday the 26th of March for transaction of Government business. The House will now today take up the Demands for Grants in respect of Communications, Food and Agriculture. The Demand for Information and Broadcasting will not be taken up for discussion. I understand, some arrangements are being made to have some time for the discussion of that demand. This is arranged to give more time for Food and Agriculture, in respect of which it was the desire of a large number of honourable Members to have more time for discussion. Of course, honourable members will remember that they have had two days for these discussions. However, some more time will be allotted. Communications will be taken up, up to 1 and from 2-30 onwards, the Demands for Food and Agriculture will be taken. I will now place the demands before the House. In the new arrangements proposed, I understand, subject to agreement by honourable members, the honourable members are getting about an hour and a half. Originally, there being no meeting of the House on Saturday the 26th, there is no question hour. Therefore, we get a full day, a part of which they can utilise for the purpose of discussing Information and Broadcasting.

DEMAND NO. 9.—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES).

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,66,49,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

DEMAND NO. 24—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,09,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Communications'."

DEMAND No. 47.—METEOROLOGY.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 84,97,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

DEMAND No. 57.—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATION SERVICE.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 76,42,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Overseas Communication Service'."

DEMAND No. 59.—TELEPHONE FACTORY.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,60,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1950, in respect of 'Telephone Factory'."

DEMAND No. 60.—AVIATION.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,53,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Aviation'."

DEMAND No. 92.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE).

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,13,41,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND No. 93.—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT MET FROM REVENUE).

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND No. 95.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION.

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,92,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

I believe the honourable Minister will require about twenty minutes for his reply.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai (Minister of Communications): Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The time-limit for speeches may be ten minutes.

Proposed increase in Postal Rates.

Mr. Frank Anthony (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I shall very briefly place before the House certain considerations in respect of this proposal—considerations which I believe have not hitherto been placed before the House. I say at the very beginning that I propose to press this cut motion. I would therefore ask my honourable friends for many of whom I have the greatest regard, to consider carefully what I have to say with regard to this proposal for the increase of postal rates.

Sir, an impartial analysis will disclose that there can be not one single reason with which any one, including Members belonging to the Congress party, will be able to justify this proposal to their thousands of followers in the country at large.

I read some weeks back a forecast of this proposed increased postal rate. Not only was there a forecast, but certain allegations were also there. That forecast and the allegations were all made in a paper of which an honourable Minister said the other day that the Government takes no notice. I myself was not prepared to take any notice of that forecast. To that extent I was surprised when that forecast materialised. I know that the honourable Minister and the Government will immediately repudiate the allegations. But I would ask them, in their own interests, since this forecast has proved correct, to publish the facts. Otherwise, the public will draw their own inference, the inescapable inference. Therefore I would ask the honourable Minister for Communications if he can, repudiate the following facts; if he cannot immediately to rescind this proposal:

Is it a fact that the present Air Lines are operating the night air mails?

Is it a fact that it is running at a huge daily loss involving many lakhs of rupees?

Is it a fact that this new increased postal rate will wipe out this loss? Wiping out this is it not in itself a reprehensible proposal?

Is it not a fact that in wiping out this loss, you are making the postal rates heavy for the Common man?

Is it not a fact that the overwhelming majority of postal users will not gain one iota by this new so-called all-up scheme, because the air line in the country today form a microscopic an infinitesimaly microscopic proportion of all postal lines? Is it not a fact that 99 and 9/10ths per cent. of your postal mails will continue to be carried by rail? I would ask the honourable Minister to give a reply to these questions.

Is it not a fact that, in spite of your increased postal rates,—your air lines are so few that 99 and 9/10ths per cent. of your mails will have to be carried by rail?

Is it not a fact that, apart from giving no benefit to the vast majority, the real users of the air mail are not going to receive any benefit by this proposal?

Is it not inevitable that the present speedy and swift air mail service will be abolished?

Is it not a fact that with this all-up system you will have probably just one air mail service, subject to the general postal routine?

So you intend to maintain your special mail service. My own feeling is that, because of the increased mail that will have to be carried by air, you will have one kind of air mail subject to postal routine with the result that people who want to use the air mail will not get effective service.

[Mr. Frank Anthony.]

For these reasons I would ask the Government to reconsider the proposal. Let them have an air mail service. Let them double, treble or even quadruple the present air mail charges in order to make good the loss which the Company is incurring. Let people who want to use the air mail pay for it. I am quite certain that the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister would pay 10 annas for an air mail letter to reach Madras or Bombay the next morning rather than pay for a brief telegram which will reach about 48 hours later and perhaps in a mutilated form. This is a serious matter. I am quite certain that if this proposal is carried through it will create considerable discontent in the country. It is not sufficient to suggest that the post-card rate only should not be raised. I believe you will have to continue to carry more than 99 per cent. of your post by rail. That is why the whole proposal should be withdrawn.

Even if you cannot make up the loss of your Company by an increase in the air mail charge to the real user of the air mail, there is nothing inherently wrong in subsidising the concern. Progressive countries are subsidising their Air Companies, because they feel they deserve encouragement and in order to strengthen Civil Aviation. But I would ask you, not to subsidise indirectly and, in what many regard, dubious form, your present air lines.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Communications' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri A. Karunakara Menon (Madras, General): Sir, notwithstanding what my friend said, I might say that we, during the course of this long Budget session felt much pleased with the way we received our posts regularly from home. Therefore, thanks are due to the honourable Minister for that and thanks are also due to the postal authorities for the efficient work that, so far as I could see, they have been doing so far. I may also say that the general level of honesty in the Department,—I do not like comparing or contrasting this department with other Departments—is much higher than in several other Departments under the Government. These go to the credit of the Postals and Telegraphs Department.

In this connection I may mention that most of the letters received by me come from rural areas. As regards these areas, therefore, I must bring to the notice of the honourable Minister the great injustice done to the postal officials thereof. The postal officials in the rural parts are the sub-post masters, branch post-masters, stamp vendors, messengers and mail carriers. They constitute the so-called extra-departmental officials. Why should they not be made intra-departmental officials and integrated into the Postal Department? Now their grievances are many. I shall speak only on one or two of them. While the rules, the responsibilities and the work are the same for the Departmental officials and the extra-Departmental officials of the Postal Department, the extra-Departmental officials are getting only a small remuneration for their work. Out of 17,169 officials belonging to this Department, about 1000 of them receive a pay of Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 per month. It is extremely unjust that they are made to do responsible work but are paid so low a pay as Rs. 2 and Rs. 4.

[*At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar).*]

Besides this, they have no pension, no provident fund, no leave, no increments, no rent for the office building, no supply of furniture, no supply of stationery also. Moreover, they have no security of tenure. So their grievances are many. From the report of 1946-47 I find that these officials form about 20 per cent of the total Posts and Telegraphs staff of the whole of India and therefore they form the backbone of the Department. Still, the kind of

treatment that is meted out to them is miserable. In addition, they have no way of ventilating their grievances to the Government, because they are distributed far and wide in the country. Perhaps if all their grievances had been known to the Government, some relief might have been given to them. They have now begun to form unions, but those unions still remain unrecognised by the Government. Therefore, I would submit to the honourable Minister that their grievances might be properly looked into and their unions might be recognised.

The second point that I would like to speak about is this. I am glad that in the report there is mention made of the expansion of developmental activities in this Department. Government say that they are going in future to concentrate on developmental activities of this Department, such as Civil Aviation, Telephone Factories and Agricultural Meteorology Stations. They are all necessary, because they are proving useful to the people at large. I wish to say one or two words with regard to aeronautical training. The demand for aeronautical training has been very great in South India. I think if you take an account you will find that during the war most of the people that distinguished themselves in this field came from South India. But it was not because that facilities were given to them, but because during the war opportunities arose and when they were drafted, they very soon learned this art and very soon equipped themselves in the line of aeronautics. That is how they were able to distinguish themselves during the war. Now, the demand is very great for aeronautical training, but there are no facilities for it in South India. I think there is only one aeronautical school or Club in Madras. There are no other places in South India where clubs exist. That is my information. So I request that more flying clubs may be started.

With regard to a site of this club, I might say that Cannanore possesses a very fine landing ground on the West Coast. Before the war it was used as a landing place for aeroplanes. Now mails are being stacked at Madras and we people of Malabar, South Kanara and Coorg do not get much benefit out of the Night Air Mail Service, because of this stacking of mails at Madras in the mornings which are moved in transit only late in the evenings. Supposing there is a flying club started at Cannanore or it is attached to the flying club at Madras—what they call being a "satellite" of the Madras Club—then there will be much more facility for the distribution of mails in these three places of Malabar, South Kanara and Coorg. This flying club is very necessary, because people in the West Coast are very desirous of flying in the air. Therefore, I appeal to the honourable Minister to consider the starting of such a flying club in some part of the West Coast; if possible at Cannanore where there is already a landing ground. The service of the trainees of this club may be utilised for carrying mails from Madras to the West Coast.

With respect to nationalisation of the Air Services, the honourable Minister stated last year in his Budget speech that he was going to appoint a Departmental Committee and something will be done in the line of nationalisation. I wish to know whether a Departmental Committee was appointed and if so, what was the kind of work that they did, what is the progress of the work and what are their recommendations.

The next subject on which I would like to speak within the few minutes allotted to me is with respect to the Telephone Factory that has been established at Bangalore. We have been depending upon foreign countries and much drain of money has been taking place. It is after considerable agitation that this factory has been started. Still from what little I understand from the Report and what I hear and what I learn from going to the place, I find that

[Shri A. Karunakara Menon]

the work is proceeding very slowly. I do not know why. If we proceed at this rate, then it is doubtful if we would be able to be self-sufficient and self-dependent within the period of 15 years that has been allotted under the schedule. It has to be developed more quickly. Both the equipment and the recruitment of technical staff and organisational staff have to proceed at a speedier pace; otherwise, our expectations may be belied. I remember while I was here in 1946-47 as a Member of the Assembly, European members saying that, "If you start such a factory, it is not going to succeed." There is a duty, therefore, on our part to see that their prognostications,—perhaps based on their self-interest—are proved false, and that we are able to manage things ourselves, and we are able to be self-sufficient with respect to these telephone and telegraph instruments.

Then I wish to say a few words about the Agricultural Meteorology Department. I have a great complaint, with regard to the weather forecasts that are being reported. These weather forecasts do not prove true. On the other hand, they are useful in one way. People have begun to think that if they are reversed they will be correct. For example if they receive a forecast saying it will be fine weather, people at once come to the conclusion that it will be cloudy weather or rainy weather. So these forecasts are not useful to the people. Perhaps, the reason might be that these forecasts have to depend upon meteorological stations situated in distant places, perhaps in Poona and Madras. But the climatic conditions and the hilly nature of the country and so on are so different that any forecasts made from Poona or Madras do not assist the people on the West Coast. So it is highly necessary that a station should be started on the West Coast which will suit the conditions there. Then perhaps, the forecasts might be more dependable and would prove more useful to the tillers of the soil and the toilers of the sea.

With these few remarks which I bring to the notice of the honourable Minister I close. I hope that steps for reform will be taken in the directions mentioned by me.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das (West Bengal: General): Sir, the first point that I wish to make is regarding the rural post offices. The Government is going to set a target for the village post offices. It is said that the target that the Department has set before itself is that villages or a group of villages within two miles radius with a population of 2,000 people should have a post office. I welcome this decision of the Government. I hope that the Government will not wait till the initiative comes from the rural people. It is within our experience that till a demand comes from the local people, no post office is started in an area even though there is great need for it. It is said that Government is prepared to allow a loss up to Rs. 500 per annum in opening a post office meant to serve general interests. This limit will be raised to Rs. 750 in case it is expected that within the first year the loss will be reduced to Rs. 500. I would urge, Sir, that a more liberal policy is followed in respect of backward areas.

The other day one honourable Member tried to attract the attention of the honourable Minister to such a backward area.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi (U.P.: General): And Hill tracts.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: In Hill tracts?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Yes.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das: But there are other areas also. In the Sunderbands in West Bengal there are areas which have no post offices at all. Within a radius of twenty miles we cannot have a post office there. I would request the honourable Minister to pay attention to those areas. I would submit, Sir, that a list of backward areas should be made and attempts should be

made to establish post offices even at a greater loss than what has been aimed at.

I would also say that if the system of *Dak Sevaks* be extended to those areas, those areas may be served well.

The next point that I would try to make is about the weather services for farmers. I welcome the decision that greater attention will be paid to this service. The rural people are ignorant about what the weather forecasts are. In our villages we find that they depend on the sayings of Khona, Khona is believed to have been the daughter-in-law of a great astronomer, Baraha-Mihir who was in the Court of King Vikramaditya. It is stated that this daughter-in-law, Khona tried to be a greater astronomer than her father-in-law and as such her tongue was chopped off. There are sayings and couplets which give indications of the weather, and the rural people follow those indications. We do not know on what data those sayings have been based but often those data come true. But what I want to emphasize is that this should be placed on a more scientific basis and all the investigations we have in the Meteorological Department may be made available easily and in an understandable form to the farmers.

I next come to Civil Aviation. I would draw the attention of the honourable Member to the fact that the air passenger fare was raised when there was an increase of fares on railways. Now that a decrease has been effected on railways, a similar decrease has not been effected in the passenger fares for aeroplanes. Of course the passengers that generally board the aeroplanes are rich people. Still we have got to make air travel popular and for that reason it is necessary that the fare should be such as to compare favourably with the fares on railways. That will attract more passengers and it will be a more lucrative proposition.

In this connection I would request the Minister to examine fully the arguments that have been often advanced regarding the nationalization of the air services. Very powerful arguments have often been advanced in favour of nationalization. I do not like to recount all those arguments but I will only say that it is necessary that the whole question should be gone into and carefully examined by a Committee. Of course, a Committee was appointed in 1944 to go into the question and the decision was taken on the report of that Committee. But I would say that that Committee was appointed in different circumstances. Things have changed and in the present circumstances, it is necessary that a fresh examination should be made. When we see all around us that everything in connection with Civil Aviation is being maintained and organized by the Government, we cannot understand why the Government is not taking up the whole service into their own hands. It is to be examined whether it is possible to organize the whole thing by starting an autonomous Corporation. I would request the honourable Minister to see that a Committee is appointed and the whole matter is examined.

As regards the training of air personnel, I would only request the honourable Minister to see that more attention is paid to produce efficient Ground Engineers. Ground Engineers are most important in order to avoid recurrence of accidents and I cannot over-emphasize that fact that the question requires careful examination. Some proposals have been made about the extension of the air service to different centres. Proposals have also been made to extend these services to Rameswaram, Badri Nath and Dwarka. I would request the Minister to examine these points. The Andamans is going to be rehabilitated through the funds of the Central Government. We know that our system of communications to the Andamans is very poor. If an air service is arranged, and if it is possible to carry mails by air, I think there would be established an easy system of communication between the mainland and the Andamans.

[Shri Basanta Kumar Das]

I now come to the question of night landing arrangements. Between Delhi and Calcutta, there is only one night landing arrangement, and that is in Allahabad. I think other important aerodromes should have this arrangement. From personal experience I know that for want of night landing arrangements aeroplanes often get into danger, and I hope the honourable Minister will pay attention to this.

The next point is in connection with the telephones. I welcome the decision of the Government that they have taken up the question of the automatisation of the Calcutta telephone system and a target has been fixed that by 1953 37,000 automatic telephone connections will be established, and that by 1954 the number will go up to 54,000. But I would like to impress upon the honourable Minister that the public telephone system in Calcutta should be improved. If we go to Howrah Station, we shall find a great rush for the public telephone that is established there. I think there are stations which seldom have any visitors. If more telephones are installed at Howrah station the congestion would be avoided and more facilities will be given to the public. We are eagerly awaiting the results of the enquiry that is being made regarding the catastrophe that happened in the Calcutta Telephone Exchange and I hope that the results of the enquiry will give us data to go into the matter fully.

There is one point as regards teleprinters. A short time ago the privilege of using Indian languages in press telegrams was extended but the Morse Code that is in vogue is not suitable for the proper transliteration of the messages. Unless the message is transliterated into the Roman Script it is not possible to transmit it and the code in vogue does not give sufficient scope for accurate transliteration of the message. If some modifications are introduced into that code, then it will be possible for proper transliteration and transmission of the message. A professor at Calcutta is trying some methods in this respect and I hope that the attention of the honourable Minister has already been drawn to that point. I would request him to examine the endeavours of that professor as also of others in this direction and some modifications may be introduced, so that it may be possible to transliterate the massages that may be handed in vernaculars for transmission to other stations. Sir, I have done.

Shri G. S. Guha (Tripura, Manipur and Khasi States): Sir, I have read with great interest the notes supplied by the Ministry of Communications on the salient activities of the Ministry during the course of the present year and their plans for the next. I think we are indebted to the honourable Minister for the particular interest he has taken in the activities of all the departments under his care. As time is short I do not propose to go into many of the subjects dealt with in these notes but would confine myself to a few points relating to the areas with which I am acquainted and from where I come.

I have noted with great satisfaction the increase in the number of post offices in Assam during 1947 and 1948 but I do not know whether the increase has been effected in the outlying non tea garden areas. I hope the Minister will consider the difficulties of the villagers in the rural areas of Assam and also of Tripura State.

Most of the Members of this House probably are not aware that there is no internal communication between Agartala and the "divisions" of the Tripura State without going through Pakistan. I recognise that until it is possible to complete the construction of the road from Agartala to Kurti and the road is linked with other subsidiary roads from other areas of the "divisions,"

it will not be possible to make much of an improvement. In the meantime I least some areas in the interior should be connected with Agartala without the least some areas in the interior should be connected with Agartala without the necessity of going through Pakistan.

Regarding telephone communication, I think some sort of arrangement should be made between Agartala and other parts of the Indian Union also without going through Pakistan. I think there is a wireless station at Agartala which can be connected with the telephone system in the other parts of the Indian Dominion. If that is so, it is all right until we get our own road and surface communication over the road to Silchar and from there to other parts of the Indian Dominion. In this connection I would also suggest that the honourable Minister may consider the question of having a telephone line on the north side of the Brahmaputra in the Assam Valley. For instance important towns like Tezpur are not connected with the Capital of Assam nor with any other place in India by telephone. I was there for about 5 years as a District Officer and during that time I had very great difficulty in communicating with the capital of the province and had at times to take the help of the military wireless during the war. I know that the people residing in those parts find very great difficulty, particularly in the tea garden areas, as there is no telephone system connecting the North bank of the Brahmaputra with the other parts of the province. I welcome the proposal for the establishment of a wireless station at Gauhati. I think one has already been installed at Shillong. With a new station at Gauhati I think most of the difficulties of Assam would be overcome so far as wireless communication is concerned.

At present most of the important mails are carried by air from Calcutta to Assam and from the 1st April we are going to have all first class mail carried by air from the Dominion of India to Assam. That is a very welcome proposal. There is one point about which I am not quite sure, viz., 'air letters'. Will the value of the 'air letters' continue to remain the same as at present?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: It is 2½ annas now and it will come down to two annas.

Shri G. S. Guha: An 'air letter' to England costs six annas and air mail letter 12 annas. The Ministry should consider the desirability of reducing the charge for inland air letters.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: We are dropping out 'air letters' completely.

Shri G. S. Guha: As regards civil aviation Assam is very much interested in its development, as also the States of Tripura and Manipur, which I have the honour to represent in this House. At present the air route from Calcutta to Assam goes *via* Siliguri. It takes a very long time but it does not cross Pakistan. In addition to this route, is it not possible to have another direct route to Assam *via* Gauhati and Tripura State from Calcutta? It will minimise not only the time taken in the flight but I think it will also be of great advantage to a large number of people because of the expected lowering of the fares.

I do not know whether there is a proposal of having a planned survey of the air routes throughout the country. If there is any, I think the question of developing the remotest parts of the eastern frontier including Manipur and Tripura and all other outlying parts may be taken into consideration. So far as my information goes most of the air services in several parts of India have

[Shri S. G. Guha]

to work at a loss. But those plying between Calcutta and Assam have always worked at a great profit. I therefore suggest that the possibilities of developing these air routes in Assam and North-Eastern India should receive the necessary consideration of the Ministry.

Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Frank Anthony has thought it fit to speak in somewhat critical terms about the new arrangement of transport of all mails by air. I find that few friends have come forward to congratulate the honourable Minister for his new reform. For my part I not only congratulate him but I also envy him. This new arrangement of conveyance of all mails by air will not only gladden the hearts of my friends like Mr. Kamath and Mr. Sondhi who have yet to set a future home but of many married people also who even under the shadow of the Hindu Code have not already decided to cancel their marriages. In fact if the great poet Kalidasa, the author of *Shakuntala* and *Meghdoot* was alive today he would have certainly embraced the honourable Minister, and the separated *Yaksh* and *Yakshni* would have laid themselves prostrate at his feet and said "here is a solution of all our grievances". No longer need people pine for not hearing from their beloved ones or for not seeing their beloved ones for a long time. The development of civil aviation and the new method of transport of all mails by air will set that problem at rest and for that reason today all the youths of this country, both young men and women certainly think of the honourable Minister in a different light: he will be verily a hero and a benefactor to them.

The only doubt in my mind is whether it will be possible for him to carry out his plan into action. I have seen that even in these days when air mail surcharge has to be paid the mails are not delivered in proper time. It takes four days for a letter to go from Calcutta to Gauhati whereas it should have arrived there on the next day. I have brought this matter to the notice of the Postal authorities. It has been pointed out to me that the delay may be due to the R.M.S. By R.M.S. I understand the Railway Mail Service. But how in a straight air passage between Calcutta and Gauhati the R.M.S. men can shoot up and interfere with the delivery of the air mail is more than what I can say. I would only ask the honourable Minister to see that the letters which are posted in proper time are actually carried by air on that day, or, even granting an allowance, on the next day and that they are delivered on the day they arrive or at least on the following day. I have drawn the attention of the postal authorities to cases where letters have been lying in the post office for more than ten days and have not been delivered—they were actually lying in the post office and not delivered at all. Parcels have not been delivered for more than a fortnight. Criminal cases in courts have had to be adjourned because the records have not been delivered or have not arrived. So all that is neeessary is to keep a watch to see that these letters are properly delivered, that they are not mis-delivered and that they are not delivered after a long lapse. I have been doing my part of the duty in order to help the honourable Minister and the Postal Department. A number of letters come to 23, Ferozeshah Road which are addressed to different persons. I think similar must be the case with other friends also. But for the fact that I have to re-post all those letters they would never have reached the addressees. I suppose these things are happening to everyone.

I think the general complaint of the Postal Department is that four classes of people complain against the Postal Department: Those who do not write letters and still expect to receive letters. They are great enemies of the Postal Department. Those who write letters to their selected friends more than twice a day and do not get reply because those selected friends do not like

to commit their thoughts into writiug for fear of disclosure. They are also disappointed. There are persons who receive a lot of value-payables. and they refuse them. And lastly those who do not get money orders. There was a time in my life when I used to receive a number of value-payables. (*Shri Mahavir Tyagi*: 'Did you?') but not a single money order and I had to take the postman to task "why do you bring only value-payables and not bring any money order?" So far as the V.P. is concerned you can safely refuse them; you do not suffer any loss. But so far as money order is concerned, the habit of signing for somebody else may be developed and complaint may be remote. On the whole I congratulate the honourable Minister for the new device because it has helped the province of Assam.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Only Assam.

Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: The province of Assam must be grateful to him. There was a time in the year 1948 when even the mails were forcibly snatched on the way between Darjeeling and Assam. It was done several times. Heaps of mails were lying in Ranighat and other places and they could not be carried. At that time the honourable Minister was pleased to help by carrying them by air without any extra payment or surcharge. Now, you might be accused of great partiality if you did not adopt the same method in respect of other provinces and therefore it is but right that he has adopted this method. It is wrong to think that the village people will suffer by the increase in postage because nowadays they won't receive the news of their relations long after some relation has died or receive intimation of a marriage long after the marriage has taken place. Instead of that, if the letters are carried by air and for the portion where there is no air communcation they are taken by the ordinary method even, the news which the people want to have they will get much sooner than they get now. Therefore, this additional increase in the postage will not be minded by the people.

The only thing that I ask the honourable Minister is to introduce in Provinces like Assam the mobile post office system. It has proved a success and I think it should be developed.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Sir, with your permission I will first take up the points made by Mr. Anthony about the raising of the postage rates and about the night air mail.

I think people are wrong in thinking that the postal rate has been increased simply because the mails will be carried by air. I want friends to see the last Annual Report which has been circulated and they will find therein that while in the past years the Postal Department was making a profit of about Rs. 4 crores a year, in the estimated Budget there is a loss of about Rs. 2½ crores. That is all due to the reducing of the post card rate by one pice in 1946. I will give honourable Members the figures for the last ten years to show that there was a proportionate increase in the number of letters and the number of post cards. In 1938-39 the number of letters sent was 516 millions and the number of post cards was 378 millions. It continued to increase proportionately and in 1946-47 the number of letters sent was 817 millions and the number of post cards was 691 millions. Then in 1946-47 the price of post card was dropped and it was found that while the increase in the number of letters was very small that is only 3 per cent instead of 15 per cent, that was normal, and only 856 million letters were sent, the number of post cards rose by a huge proportion—from 691 millions it rose to 888 millions.

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): That shows that the poor people took advantage of it.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That is true, but what about the income of the post office?

Then, in 1947-48 in divided India, that is in the Indian Union, the number of letters was 720 millions while the number of post cards was in excess of that, that is 762 millions. In 1948-49 the number of letters sent was 781 millions while the number of post cards was 850 millions. In the next year it is expected that the number of letters will be 690 millions and the number of post cards will be 844 millions.

Now I would like you to look into the income of the Postal Department. From a profitable concern earning Rs. 4 crores a year, the next year's estimate shows a loss of Rs. 2½ crores. Last year we had to face the same problem. Then it was proposed that the price of the card should be raised, but we retained the price at two pice and increased the rates of the telephones. Now those Departments are making money and with that money we could have increased the facilities in other places but that was not possible because the Postal Department works at some loss.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What was it due to?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Because the wages are going up while we are bringing down the prices.

Mr. Frank Anthony: But is not the main reason the running of your air companies at a loss?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: It has nothing to do with it because the air mails last year brought a good profit and that has reduced the loss to over 50 lakhs.

We are again faced with a similar situation. It will not be possible to raise the charges on telegrams and telephones; the charges are already too high and last year we had to make some concessions for Press telegrams. We will have to make some further reductions if we want to increase the telephone facilities to extend it to others with lower income.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Is that loss of Rs. 2½ crores due to the reduction of the rate of the post card from nine pies to half an anna?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That is true. And in view of the increasing rate of literacy in the population the number of letters and cards has also increased and every additional card will mean more loss. If the present number of cards is doubled then all the income from telegrams and telephones will be eaten up.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: After you start this night air mail, will not the revenue from telegrams and telephones be reduced next year?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I do not think so because we are trying to improve the efficiency of the telegram. I have already asked the Department to see that a telegram from Calcutta to Bombay is delivered there in an hour and a half and a reply handed back, if there is a reply, in three hours. I hope in time to come we will be able to do that.

Mr. Frank Anthony: How much has this company lost since the night air mail service has begun operation?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I will come to that. That is about the increase of rates in post cards. I hope honourable Members will see that if we do not make this increase it will not be possible to increase

the charge on letters because the proportion of letters and cards will again be upset and then there will be fewer letters and a larger number of post-cards. Therefore we will have to accept this increase if we want to finance our expansion schemes.

The other point that was raised by Mr. Anthony was the special favour shown to a Company. I do not know where he got his facts from. A Question was put to me in this House and I gave a reply that when we thought of introducing this night air mail we contacted not one but two or three Companies. We offered them the same terms. All the other Companies wanted an enhancement of the present air mail rates. We said it was not possible because I told them that my scheme was to reduce the air mail rate after the new Budget, and that therefore it will not be possible to enhance the air mail rates. Then they declined the offer. The Postal Department entered into an agreement with the Company that accepted the offer. At the time it was understood that they will be allowed to take passengers also, but the Air Licensing Board said that till the night landing facilities have been provided on intermediary air halts they will not issue licences for carrying passengers. We had to drop the matter. But as night landing facilities were available on the Bombay route we proposed to another Company which is running a Delhi-Bombay air service to take up this night air mail service between here and Bombay, but in the mean time the Company offered to carry mails and to develop freight service. I know that in other countries like Australia, U.S.A. and even in a small country like the Philippines they have developed a good freight service by reducing their rates and instead of losing money they are making profits. Therefore I had encouraged this idea and they were given a licence. Although in the beginning their loss was high, now they have developed sufficient freight service between Calcutta and Bombay to make that trip without any loss. They are still suffering some loss on the Delhi-Madras route but I think they will be able to develop that route also. I may inform the House that that route has been equipped with night landing facilities, therefore perhaps from the beginning of the next month we will be able to allow them to take passengers also, and in that case whatever loss they may have been suffering will be wiped out.

Another doubt which Mr. Anthony seemed to entertain is that all the mails will be confined to these two services. That is wrong. We will have mail for every service and I might inform the honourable member that since this proposal was announced—and I have had talks with the companies—there have been many proposals for new services for which these companies were not prepared before, because they were expecting that they would not get sufficient load. With the increase in the mail load, every company is prepared to run new services, and I may inform Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhury that I have already a proposal for running an air service between Delhi and Gauhati direct.

Mr. Frank Anthony: But is it not a fact that more than ninety per cent of the mail will continue to be carried by rail?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That is wrong. We will carry about 25 per cent now, and with the help of flying clubs, we will be able, within a year's time to bring it up to about 50 per cent.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar: General): On what basis was the cost of production of a post card fixed at 8.2 pies?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I am just coming to that.

Shrimati G. Durgabai (Madras: General): May I know what is the total loss expected to be covered by this increase on the post card? Is it intended only to cover the loss or is it also expected to earn a profit?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I am just giving the figures, and you will find it is not expected to cover up even all the loss.

The honourable the Finance Minister informed the House that the cost per post card would come to 8.2 pies. But since the increase of 10 per cent. in the dearness allowance, it has further gone up to 9.3 pies. I may tell you that envelope is the only thing that brings us any income. In the other items like money-orders etc. we are losing money. If you are interested, I may read out our expenses that we have to meet out of the revenue that we get. Per letter we are spending 10 pies and we get 18 pies. Per unpaid letter we spend 14 pies and we get 36 pies. These are the only sources of our income. On registered letter we are spending 8 as. 7 pies, and we get only 5 as. 6 pies.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the cost of production of a post-card?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: It is 9.3 pies. The rates were fixed when wages were much lower than what they are to-day. Therefore I may say that we are losing on every card and the number of cards is going up higher and higher and we are losing larger and larger amounts.

Mr. Frank Anthony: May I know how the honourable Minister arrived at the percentage of 25 and the likely percentage of 50?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: We have taken a census of the mails that go from city to city, from Delhi to Lucknow, to Banaras, Patna, Allahabad and so on. That is how we arrived at the figures.

Mr. Frank Anthony: What about the millions in the villages?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: All the mail for the United Provinces will go to aerodromes in the U.P. and distributed from there. That will save 24 hours.

Then I may tell you what effect it will have on our civil aviation. We were losing money. Every company was losing money. Two companies have gone into liquidation. There was the threat of another company also going into liquidation.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Still new companies are coming up.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That is wrong. We are not giving licenses to new companies. The number of companies is going down. Even a company considered to be most efficiently run, has lost some money; there was some profit in the balance-sheet of that company last year. Therefore we have to think out some plan that will keep these companies running. There was the question of nationalisation. Last year I said a committee was appointed. That committee proposed that we should take over one of the existing operating lines and run it. But that was not found possible on account of the financial crisis that we had to pass, and therefore we had to give it up. Now the question before us was how to save these companies. I have met representatives of these companies and I have been impressing upon them the necessity of getting more economic planes. I am told that if they operate planes of 40 seats then perhaps they can lower the fare and cater for the lower income people. Therefore, as an honourable member has suggested, I am advising them to lower their fares and then they will get full load. Some of them are trying to do it, and they

are exploring the possibility of having new planes with 40 seats or 50 seats, and charging as low fare as the railways do. If it is possible to do so, without any loss. I am told it is done in the U.S.A., in Australia and in some other countries. But we have to give them some assurance as regards the load. Instead of paying them a subsidy, I have devised to give them more load.

1 P.M.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: But then the railways will lose.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: There will be such an abundance of traffic and therefore our mails, parcels etc. will continue to be carried by trains.

Shri B. L. Sondhi (East Punjab: General): Cost of aviation petrol has been reduced.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Yes, and on that account, I am also reducing the rates for the air-mails. At present we are paying every company, irrespective of the distance, at the rate of Rs. 1-8-0 per pound. If a letter goes from Kashmir to Assam, it has to be handled by three companies and therefore it has to be paid at Rs. 4-8-0 per pound. Now they will be paying them at the average rate of Rs. 1-8-0 according to distance.

Now, I will deal with the village post-offices. A point has been made about the pay of the extra departmental staff. These extra departmental staff are employed on the basis that they are doing other businesses and some payment will induce them to take up this work also. There was not much work, and village teachers or some persons doing business in the village, were paid a small sum as allowance for handling the mails. They would despatch and deliver the mails. In a small village, the people themselves would collect at the post office at the time of the arrival of the mail and take delivery. Otherwise we employ extra departmental staff for distribution also.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu (Orissa: General): But they have to work for six hours.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: No, they are not supposed to work for six hours. And they used to get a sum of Rs. 6 and the mail peon used to get something like Rs. 8 to Rs. 10.

Our rule was that in a village we can open a post office if our losses will not be more than Rs. 250. Last year I announced that we have raised this amount to Rs. 500. But we found that on account of the increases in the pay of the extra departmental men, even this sum of Rs. 500 would not suffice and therefore we were unable to spend the money that we had for opening new post-offices. We have recently raised the figure to Rs. 750 and we hope that on the present basis of pay we will be able to open new post offices. But if the pay of the extra departmental staff is further raised, then that may not be possible. As I said we were employing these extra departmental staff on the basis that they were doing other work. Now it happened that whenever a new post office was opened in a village, instead of giving the work to somebody who is doing something else also, somebody who is young and unemployed takes it up and then he starts demanding for more pay. Therefore I have directed the Department to see that only men who have got other work should be recruited for this work. We have also made a rule that if in any place one has to work for more than five hours, then he should be taken on into the departmental service and the post office departmentalised. But so long as it is only one hour, or two hours or three hours work, he will be paid according to the specified rates.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: But your rule is that he should work one hour in the morning and five hours in the afternoon.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I have said five hours work will entitle him to come into the department. And that is why many of the stamp vendors in many places have been taken into the departmental service.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Since when has the cost of production of the post-card been 8.2 pies? How long has this abnormal figure remained? How many years has it been like that?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: With the increase in the expenses the cost has been rising. In 1932 it was 5.8 pies. In 1938 it went down to 5.2. When the war started there were several allowances and the rise started. And then we implemented the Pay Commission's Recommendations. We had to give an extra Rs. 97 lakhs to Postal Department, excluding the Telegraph Department, and that added to the cost. And now we have to add Rs. 13 lakhs just now. Therefore from 8.2 pies it has gone up to 9.3 pies. If there are further rises in the dearness allowances etc. it will go up further.

Shri H. V. Kamath: It will be one anna next year.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): What is the pay of a stamp vendor?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: The minimum pay in the department is Rs. 30 and anyone who gets into the department starts on this, with of course the dearness and other allowances.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Are the packers entitled to pensions?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Yes.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Have stamp vendors been given the recent increase of 10 per cent?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Yes, they have got all that the departmental staff have got.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the honourable Minister conclude the speech now or would he like to resume his speech in the afternoon?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I will take only 5 minutes more. I will now refer to the Meteorological Department. Many points have been raised, but I want to say something about the Meteorological Department. We are doing all that is possible in order to supply to the cultivators information that is necessary for them. There might be inaccuracies in them now and then, but the Department is doing its best to increase its efficiency. It is one thing to get information and it is quite a different thing to supply it to the cultivator. That has been the difficulty. Several times the Department came in contact with Provincial Governments and had discussions as to how to popularise their forecasts, discussed the suggestion of having our community village receivers for receiving broadcasts and all that, but that is all taking time and unless we are able to devise some methods of convincing the peasantry, of their utility whatever information is supplied in these bulletins will not be useful to them and the Meteorological Department will not be able to do much service. An honourable Member has referred to the 'sayings' of some ancient sage which guide the agriculturist in his sowing and reaping etc. There are different ancients' 'sayings' prevailing in different Provinces. The Department is experimenting and

it is hoped they will be able to explain how far those sayings are applicable under present conditions. The information will be made available to agriculturists through Provincial Governments. With these words I close.

Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha (Assam: General): May I know from what date the Air mail service from Delhi to Gauhati will start functioning?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I hope it will be some time next month.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Suppose, Sir, in view of the overall efficienoy of your Department, if we agree to your Demands, are you prepared to reconsider the price of postcards?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: No. I thought I have convinced you, but you are.....

Mr. Frank Anthony How much of these increased rates are due to the fact that you will have to pay so much more to the different Air Lines?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: When we thought of air-mail services, there was no consideration of enhancing the rates. As a matter of fact, we were making money on the air surcharge. Under the new proposal, we are doing away with that. Our earnings were 8-0-0 per lb. while we were paying to the companies 1-8-0. I have done away with that and all the money paid to the Air Services will be considered as an aid to Civil Aviation.

Shri Sita Ram S. Jajoo (Madhya Bharat): Are the development schemes going to be undertaken in the States also?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I think that whatevar we are doing will benefit both the Provinces and states.

I may say a few words about the Flying Clubs. When I was in **Madras**, I had conversations with the Madras Finance Minister and I told him that they should take some interest in the establishment of flying clubs such as in Malabar and Andhra and other places and he has promised to look into that.

Mr. Frank Anthony: On the figures given by the honourable Minister that 30 per cent. (*Some Honourable Members*: '25 per cent') of mails will primarily be carried by air and 50 per cent. by next year, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Has the honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,66,49,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,09,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Communications'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 84,97,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 76,42,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Overseas Communication Service'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,60,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Telephone Factory'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,53,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Aviation'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,13,41,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (not met from Revenue)'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (not met from Revenue)'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,32,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Demands are all granted. The House will now stand adjourned to 2-40 P.M.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till forty minutes past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at forty minutes past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed with the Demand for Food and Agriculture.

I am placing the following Demands before the House.

DEMAND NO. 26.—MINISTRY OF FOOD

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,29,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Food'."

DEMAND NO. 7.—FOREST

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,10,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Forest'."

DEMAND NO. 17.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,91,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Agrioulture'."

DEMAND NO. 41.—SURVEY OF INDIA

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 69,86,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

DEMAND NO. 42.—BOTANICAL SURVEY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,63,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

DEMAND NO. 48.—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,56,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

DEMAND NO. 58.—AGRICULTURE

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,83,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 54.—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,66,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

DEMAND NO. 65.—INDIAN DAIRY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,17,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Indian Dairy Department'."

DEMAND NO. 90.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,95,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests'."

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram (Minister of Food and Agriculture): Sir, I had no intention to take the time of the House by any introductory remarks. But, in view of the 2 days' debate on food at the beginning of this session and the promise I then made that the entire food situation would be reviewed at high level, I thought that it would be appropriate if I now inform the House as to what steps were taken subsequent to that debate and what has been the result of the review I had promised. Since the discussions in the House in early February, the whole programme of food production was thoroughly re-examined by me with the aid of my administrative and technical officers. The Grow-More-Food programme was also submitted to examination by a committee of economists attached to the Cabinet. I also had informal discussions with many Members of the House to have the advantage of their experience and local knowledge. Their sustained interest in the details of the various proposals discussed with them was of great help to me in finalising the line of action proposed to be taken. I have given the fullest consideration to the various suggestions made during the debate and thereafter, and have decided to accept several of those suggestions.

The Government also considered it necessary, before coming to final conclusions, to confer with the Provincial Governments and so, a week ago, representatives of the Provincial Governments were called to Delhi to determine what part the Provinces would play in dealing anew with the food problem.

As promised, the food situation was reviewed by the Cabinet on two separate occasions and the Prime Minister has been as you know, giving constant thought to the problem. I am now in a position to place before the House briefly the decisions of the Cabinet and the revised food policy of the Government.

The first and the basic decision which we have come to is that, except in the case of any grave calamity such as widespread failure of crops or for the purpose of building up a central reserve, as recommended by the Food Grains Policy Committee, the Government will not import any food grains from abroad after 1951. The second decision of Government is that, in view of the above definite goal of freedom from imports of food grains after 1951, the Provinces and States are to be asked to do two things. Firstly, to plan their programme of food production in accordance with the above announcement and secondly, to tighten up their procurement arrangements, so that the increase in food grains resulting from the measures to be taken also becomes available for meeting any food deficit in the country.

The Government have also reconsidered the whole scheme of Grow-More-Food Campaign and have replaced it by a programme of Intensive Cultivation of that part of our food acreage at present which has perennial or assured water-supply. Subsidised aid in the shape of improved seeds, organic manure, compost fertilizers, minor irrigation works will now all be concentrated on selected regions in this part of our cultivated land. Arrangements have also been planned for making a more reliable estimate of the results of this concentrated effort by the crop-cutting method of sample survey.

Government have also, as you know, large schemes of reclamation covering about 60 lakhs acres of weed infested and new land. We intend to concentrate on reclaiming about 8 lakhs of acres by the end of 1951. The efficiency of the work of reclamation and mechanical cultivation so far done by the Central and Provincial Governments has won praise from those who are familiar with this type of work in the West. This scheme is going to be the biggest reclamation project in the East outside Russia. Already the results and outturns achieved in the United Provinces and the Central Provinces have been beyond our expectations.

Government have also a project of tube-wells, the details of which are under fresh examination. When implemented, the land perennially irrigated by these deep wells will make a material contribution to meeting our food deficit. Goverument also intend pending the development of our iudigenous resources of orgauic and chemical manure to secure from outeide special quantities of fertilizers for use in irrigated rice areas to make a substantive addition to our rice crop It is also the proposal of Government to save some extra acreage from surplus crops and divert it for the production of cereals. These are the several items in our programme up to the end of 1951. For the speedy implementation of the revised programme, Government have decided to set up at the Centre a small Development Board and will request the provinces and States to set up parallel Development Bourds so that the normal Departmental procedure may not delay the progress of the programme. The Boards would have attached to them statistical sections to keep continuous contact with developments and assess periodically the results achieved in terms of the targets. All these parts of the revised food programme were fully discussed with the representatives of provinces only a few days ago and provincial plans for production were formulated whicu would wipe off our food deficit of only 10 per cent by the end of 1951.

The goal before us, therefore, is to achieve self-sufficiency in food by the end of 1951 and we must somehow achieve this goal. It gives me pleasure to state that the provincial representatives felt confident that the programme chalked out with their co-operation could be successfully achieved within the above time-limit of December 1951. They, however, needed and rightly the help of the Centre in the shape of more iron and steel, cement and coal and above all proper transport facilities. The question of how the movement of these materials for food production could be upgraded is to be decided shortly by Government, but in the meantime Government have decided to have a special Liaison Officer who would keep the link between the Centre and the provinces and States in regard to these matters and see that no difficulty arises in the way of speedy implementation of the new programme.

Government have also felt the necessity of more frequent contact with the provincial and State plans for production and it has been arranged that there would be a monthly meeting of the officers of the Centre and of the provinces and States to ensure that the various production plans are being rapidly proceeded with and also to provide an opportunity for fullest inter-provincial co-ordination. There would be besides a six-monthly review of the progress made in terms of a six-month phased programme. I have no doubt that the provinces and States realizing the gravity of the situation will fully respond.

Apart from this programme of increasing the production of rice, wheat and other cereals so as to achieve self-sufficiency by the end of 1951, Government have also decided to encourage the development and use of such high-yielding non-cereal food crops as banana, papayya, sweet potato and tapioca. These have good food value and the yield per acre is many times more than in the case of cereals. Some adjustment also in our habits of diet is essential in the present times.

Government, however, realise that no plan of agricultural production can succeed unless it secures the co-operation of the agriculturists. It is therefore intended, apart from other steps that have to be taken, to organise farmers' unions under the leadership of progressive cultivators in each area, so that democracy in the field of production may achieve the greatest results. Public policy in regard to the rural areas needs to be re-orientated. With increased agricultural production is linked not only the cultivator's own purchasing power and therefore his own standard of living, but with it is linked

[Shri Jairamdas Doulatram]

also our country's economic freedom. All of us, Government no less than the House and the public, feel that we must end the crisis which faces us on the food front. We must be independent of food imports by the earliest possible date. A reasonably early date has now been fixed. It is a challenge to all of us, but the challenge can only be met if the food front is looked upon nearly as a war front and if the same sense of urgency and emergency which inspires a successful war effort also inspires our plans of food production.

It is not an easy task which Government have set for themselves. We may not take it lightly. It is a hard task needing continuous, persistent, patient, strenuous work. It would need the greatest effort of all of us—both Government and the people. The maximum co-operation between the Central, provincial and State governments on the one hand and the nation's producers on numberless fields on the other will alone enable the country to reach the goal we have placed before ourselves. I feel hopeful that that cooperation will be available.

In placing this programme before the House, I would have wished to say nothing which may be regarded as of a personal nature, but I cannot help saying only this much, that I wish to assure the House that every ounce of my energy will be devoted to seeing that we bring the programme to timely success. I may also, in conclusion, express the hope that the honourable Members of the House who have ample influence in their respective provinces and States will severally treat the programme as their own and give to Government their cooperation in reaching our goal by the target date of December 1951.

Mr. Speaker: I will just remind honourable Members that today is the last date for the voting of demands and therefore, under the rules, it is not possible for us to extend the time beyond 5. At 5 sharp the guillotine will be applied. So we have about an hour and a half, leaving about half an hour to the honourable Minister for reply.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will take twenty minutes.

Mr. Speaker: That means we shall have ten minutes more and there are a large number of speakers; so I have to curtail, again, the time-limit, and request members to strictly limit themselves to the time-limit and take care to see that they mention all points that they want to urge, without the embroideries to all those points.

Now, are there any cut motions which are going to be moved?

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu (Orissa: General): Yes, Sir. I have one.

Mr. Speaker: There is also another one, I think.

Sardar Hukam Singh (East Punjab: General): Yes, Sir. If I am given time I will move others.

Mr. Speaker: If there is a cut motion, of course, I will have to give preference to it and the particular discussion will precede the general discussion. There are two cut motions. I think we will first have the one by Mr. Sahu.

Stoppage of Food Grains Import from Foreign Countries

श्री० लक्ष्मीनारायण साहू : मान्यवर वाचस्पतिजी, मेरा कट. मोशन यह है :

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food' be reduced by Rs. 100."

अभी जो मान्यवर मंत्री जी ने कहा कि सन् १९५१ के बाद से खाने की चीजों का कोई इम्पोर्ट नहीं होगा बड़ी खुशी की बात है । लेकिन हम लोग यह काम कैसे खत्म कर सकते हैं ? इस के लिये हम लोगों को पूरी कोशिश करनी चाहिये । एक बात मैं यह सोचता था कि जब तक यहां ब्लैक मारकेटिंग रहती है और ट्रांसपोर्ट का सुभीता नहीं रहता है तब तक हम लोगों को खाने की चीजें यहां रहते हुए भी खाने को नहीं मिलती हैं । इसीलिये सब मिनिस्टरों को कोशिश करनी चाहिये कि ट्रांसपोर्ट की फैसीलीटीज दी जांय ।

अब ब्लैक मारकेटिंग कैसे बन्द होगा । ब्लैक मारकेटिंग बन्द करने के लिये मैंने ऐसा सुना है कि जरमनी में ओवरनाइट न्यू करेंसी बना दिया और जितने रुपये जिसके पास थे वह कोई काम के नहीं रहे । इसीलिये खाने की जितनी चीजें थीं सब देश को मिल गई । ऐसा मैं सोचता हूं कि अगर फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब कोई न्यू करेंसी कर दें या ऐसा कुछ सुभीता कर दें तो बहुत अच्छा हो । ज्यादा वक्त मैं नहीं लेना चाहता हूं इतना ही कह कर मैं अपना कट मोशन पेश करता हूं ।

(*English translation of the above speech*)

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food' be reduced by Rs. 100."

It is a matter of great gratification to know from the honourable Minister that no food-stuffs will be imported after the year 1951. But how can we do away with this? Therefore, we should make every endeavour to achieve this end. One thing which I thought of was that as long as black market continues to exist and transport facilities are not made available, we cannot get any food-stuffs even if these are available in this country. Therefore, I would urge the honourable Ministers concerned to do their best to provide transport facilities.

Now, how can this black-market be checked? I have been told that in Germany new currency was introduced over-night thus resulting in the demonetization of the entire existing currency in the hands of the people. This led to the whole stock of the food-stuffs being released for the country's use. I, therefore, feel that it would be much better if the honourable the Finance Minister introduces any new currency or affords some such facility. I do not want to take much time of the House.

With these words, I move my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food' be reduced by Rs. 100.

Co-ordination with Provinces and failure to meet shortage of Food

Sardar Hukam Singh: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

The second one also I will move with your permission.

Food shortage and policy.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, it was heartening to listen to the honourable Minister today that our Government have laid down a definite date by which we shall stop food imports and our country will become self-sufficient in food. The honourable Minister and our country will become self-sufficient in food. The honourable Minister to follow. If the results as expected, or as desired, are achieved, it would be a very hopeful thing. So far it is distressing to find that though India has all along been known as an agricultural country—apart from whatever else it might produce—it has not given us sufficient food and sufficient milk. 75 per cent of our people depend on agriculture and India has been dependent on imports and is still dependent on that for another two years, even if we succeed according to the programme laid down by us. These imports have been rather increasing from year to year. In 1947 we imported 2·5 million tons while in 1949 we have provided for 4 million tons. That is also due to insufficiency of exchange: rather we are desiring more. We have been told in the report that certain places have been visited by famine. But we should be prepared for that because a country as large as ours must have some places here and there which may be afflicted by famine.

3 P.M

My first submission is that our policy of de-control and de-rationing has brought about a sharp rise in prices. The index number rose from 280 on 15th August 1947 to 393 on 15th August 1948. My own contention is that these are only book prices. Actually the wheat has been selling at much higher prices.

As I have said before, our Government has relied upon imports and on the 'Grow More Food' campaign. But these have not brought the desirable results. Our imports have eaten up most of our reserves that could have been better utilised for capital goods and machinery, and the grow more food campaign as discussed the other day has not given us the results that we expected. So the real need for the moment is a total campaign on this food front, and if we succeed in the programme just described, there should be some improvement.

I might clear up one point here. There is a general impression, that the ordinary agriculturist has gained considerably during the abnormal rise in prices. In reality, in my view, that opinion is not correct. The plight of the small peasant has rather worsened. The reasons for this may be stated as follows:

(a) the area under multiple crop is very small;

(b) 80 per cent of the holdings are uneconomic and the average peasant produces hardly enough for his own needs. For his other needs such as kerosene oil, cloth, matches, salt and sugar he has to pay high prices;

(c) these poor peasants have been the first to be affected by famines. What has been the result? The landless agricultural labour has been increasing very fast and according to I.L.O. in 1933 it was 35 millions, while in 1944 it had grown to 68 millions. The small landholder is parting with his land.

He is forced to sell it. During the war 13 per cent big landlords have been able to reduce their debts by 32 per cent and the middle-class peasant by 19 per cent. But these small land-holders had to sell their land to the above two classes to the extent of Rs. 30 crores.

There is the testimony of the Bengal Famine Commission to the same effect. In reply to the questionnaire circulated to the various provinces Bengal replied that the big landlords have more lands than they can directly cultivate themselves. Orissa said that there is a tendency for land to pass from small cultivators to persons who are men of professions. Similarly, the C. P. replied that there is an increasing tendency for ownership of land to pass out of the hands of the cultivating classes.

The conclusion that one can arrive at is that agricultural production has ceased to be worthwhile because the life of the actual producer has ceased to be worthliving.

With regard to the plan of Government to mechanise agriculture, I might submit that unless we can provide some alternate occupation for these cultivators, it would bring in more unemployment and our purpose would not be served. In fact it would mean importing of tractors and increasing unemployment. The abolition of zamindari also is not being done in a desirable way. I do not think it will bring the results that we anticipate. Still I am in favour of it. The real owner is getting compensation; the tenant under him is getting the land; but the actual cultivator who is there and just lower than the tenant, is not getting anything. If A is the proprietor and B is the immediate tenant, then in most cases B is not actually tilling it. C is recorded under B, but in some cases C may also have a tenant under him D who may be actually cultivating. But the actual tillers on the land would not get any benefit. So the programme of the Government should be that the actual tiller should get the land.

To sum up, if Government really intends benefiting the peasant, then the actual tiller should be the beneficiary and not the intermediary.

The grievances of the agricultural classes are mounting up and multiplying. They are clamouring for relief. There have been strikes and sporadic revolts in several parts of the country. If nothing is done to ameliorate the conditions of our agricultural masses India is sure to go the China way.

Shri T. Prakasam (Madras: General): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to say what I have to say on this very important subject. I shall confine myself, as you pointed out, to the few points which I shall take up before you and before the honourable Members of this House.

I congratulate the Food Minister and the Cabinet of Pandit Jawahar'al Nehru for the decision they have taken that there would be no more imports from 1951. I would like to point out to them, if it is not impossible, that they should try and reduce that period and not to import from 1950. We are in 1949. 1950 would be the next year. Unless there is any difficulty, technical or otherwise in virtue of any commitments, I would request that, if it is possible, these imports from outside should be stopped from 1950. Sir, I may point out that the troubles during the last two or three years have been of our own making. After the first war the first economic depression started in 1924 and continued to 1934: that is 10 years or 11years elapsed after the close of that war for any economic crisis to arise. But this time almost immediately after the war the trouble started. What is the cause of this? You may not be able to see it unless you go into the whole of it closely. What is the cause of this crisis immediately after the war? Why has the food famine and the cloth famine overtaken us so soon after the war? When I was the head of the Madras Government I had occasion to address the Assembly on this matter in the

[Shri T. Prakasam]

food debate. I pointed out then that our relationship with the International Food and Agricultural Organisation, our being tied up with them was responsible for this trouble of ours. I very much wished at that time that that relationship should cease to exist immediately. If we were free from that we will recover very much more quickly. That was the point I mentioned more than 2 years ago and I am now repeating it with greater strength on the basis of facts. Why has this trouble come upon us immediately after the war? It is only 3½ years since the hostilities ceased. This International Food and Agricultural Organisation came into existence three years ago. What is this organisation? Mr. Dodd, who is the Director General of this organisation was in Delhi and made a statement in a press interview the other day. He was very candid and he explained the position so far as the International F.A.O., of which he was the Director General, was concerned. He said that in this international organisation 58 countries have joined as members. He said that it had no executive power to execute, it is not a body that could sell anything or give anything or take anything. It is merely an organisation that came into existence with a view to regulate the distribution of food throughout the world as it were. It tried and it has failed and we have suffered very much on that account. Mr. Dodd himself stated in his press interview what the difficulties were in regard to our own country. He pointed out that we have not got the machinery or plant required for improving our agricultural production and making ourselves self-sufficient. He admitted the exchange trouble that has come into existence along with the close of the war. America is holding the sword against the rest of the world, dictating the dollar basis for everybody to adopt. Every country is forced today to purchase dollars at any cost and keep them or in the name of dollars to transact their business, either import or export. The whole country has been reduced to that condition. Mr. Dodd himself was plain and straight in stating that the exchange trouble was there. This International F.A.O whioh has no executive power, which has nothing to give nor take is simply sitting at one place and regulating the whole thing and it has created all this trouble. Mr. Dodd is a gentleman who was the under-secretary of the U.S.A. Government a few years ago and he came out and became the Director General of this organisation. The sooner we sever our connection with this organisation the better. In anticipation as it were I feel thankful to the Government for their having stated that we would not import any more foodgrains from outside from 1951.

One other thing I would suggest by way of construction which the honourable Minister has already indicated to some extent. A decentralisation policy must be adopted. Each province must be made responsible, as it is already indicated in the statement of the Food Minister. Each provincial government can with the money of the people bring into existence co-operative organisations with the aid of which they can procure and carry out distribution all over the country. With your permission, Sir, let me tell you that in Madras our Government brought into existence within six or seven months 29,000 Village Food Committees, so that food may be distributed. Food procured will go into the hands of the committees so that those people in the villages may not starve or complain about distribution. The co-operative organisations in one district of Malabar collected over a crore of rupees from the people and they started both procurement and distribution for relieving the poor as it were and they proved a perfect success. In the coastal districts the people themselves came forward paying over 2 crores of rupees within less than two months. The organisation came into existence and it had a credit and debit balance sheet which was published. The organisation was flourishing and they were making small profits not merely for themselves but they were giving

food to the poor also. There was such potentiality in it but it could not be continued. By some chance or other our Government was overthrown and another government came into power and they set their face against the whole organisation. The organisations are still there. There is the body of it, though the life is not there and they are not functioning. I suggest that those organisations must be restored. I therefore submit to the Members of this Government and to this House that co-operative organisation must be made the basis and Government need not spend any money. It has been pointed out by our capitalist friends that money has gone into the hands of the villagers. Assuming that it is so I would suggest the encouragement of co-operative organisations. If that is done procurement can be secured and every thing else could be done and Communism can be resisted. That was my point from the beginning. If these organisations had been extended throughout the Presidency we would not have had any Communism at all, whereas now we are in the throes of Communism on account of the wretchedness that has overtaken us. So this is for the constructive side and as for the other side I would suggest the cessation of our connection with the International F.A.O. and stop our imports of foodgrains from abroad from 1950 itself.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Sir, I wish to say a few words and they shall be only points. The statement made by the honourable Minister was somewhat reassuring. My part of the country has been stricken with famine for a number of years and we had to come to the Centre for import of foodgrains from foreign countries. I am thankful to the Centre and our province is thankful to the Central Government for having helped us. But I find that in recent years the incentive to produce more and achieve self-sufficiency is more and more lacking. Therefore the time limit which has been fixed as 1951 is good. It will create a sense of responsibility in the minds of the provincial governments.

I would make a few suggestions now. When I moved a resolution in this House regarding the methods which should be adopted to prevent famine recurring as also to circumvent or avoid famine conditions, I suggested at that time that there must be a permanent Famine Commission established in this country. Instead of a Famine Commission there must be an Agricultural Commission or an Agricultural Board established which will every week or every month—at least every month—issue a report that so many acres have been sown with this and so on and so forth. Such a kind of incentive and fillip to industry and particularly to this industry is wanted. I am very sorry to find such a thing absent here. We find that England has made herself self-sufficient and that its balance of trade has increased, that it has a favourable balance of trade to the tune of pounds 18 million. It may be a little too much; it may be a matter of exaggeration. But that kind of effort, that kind of attack on all fronts, that kind of enthusiasm is lacking here. The honourable Minister may not be able to do everything. Therefore I would suggest that a kind of an All India Agricultural Commission or Board should be brought into existence which must address itself to the main problem of distributing seeds and implements, importing tractors, sending them to the required areas and directly taking up certain areas for extensive cultivation. There are large areas in Orissa which are water-logged and suffering from malarial conditions. The Agency tracts have millions of square miles of such land. (*Prof. N. G. Ranga*: 'Sixty-thousand square miles'). There the sixty-thousand square miles of land in the province of Madras infected by malaria. Otherwise they have natural sources of irrigation. If all these are cultivated there won't be any famine in the land. India will become surplus in cereals and we may be able to send our foodgrains to other countries also. That is one suggestion which I wish to make.

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

As I agree with my honourable friend Mr. Prakasam when he says this must be decentralised, after all we may talk from Delhi, another friend may talk from the capital of the various Provinces; but the man who has to produce is in the village. There is no question of responsibility so far as the village is concerned. Therefore, instead of entering into an argument, what I would suggest is that in every village there must be an Agricultural Council or a Farmers Council which must have the right to take up any particular land which is left fallow for any reason, for want of men or for want of implements. This Council must be able to take charge, by legislation, of that land, cultivate it, and after deducting the expenses of cultivation pay away the balance to the man concerned. We are giving subsidies in season and out of season. All right, let us continue the subsidies. If subsidies are given to individual ryots for sinking wells I know that old pits have been shown as newly dug wells and people have eaten away the money. Even half or 25 per cent of the money that is given by way of subsides does not go for the sinking of wells. We give a sum of Rs. 300 or 400; the cost of sinking a well is about of 1,400. It is not easy for him to get the balance. He has to go in for a taccavi loan. The procedure takes a long time. Therefore give this subsidy to the Agricultural Council which has to be established on a statutory basis in every village, give them implements and the husbandry for the purpose of distribution to the various places. There won't be any nepotism here. It cannot be said that one district or taluk has taken away everything to the prejudice of other taluks. Seed grains must be distributed through that agency. It must be permitted to take charge of any particular land and cultivate it in case in spite of all facilities having been given that land is not being cultivated.

Another difficulty is this. I know there is a race for producing commercial crops; not that I want to deny the agriculturist the benefit of a commercial crop. I will come to it later. But so far as production of cereals is concerned, in the district from which I come at a time when jaggery was selling very high all paddy fields were converted into sugar-cane fields and there was such a lot of jaggery produced. On account of decontrol there was no market for the jaggery and it began to rot and became sour. And the people began to starve because they had not grown cereals. Therefore legislation must be undertaken in every province for enforcing crop planning everywhere. If a man has five acres of land let him not grow sugar-cane on all his land. Let him have 25 per cent. for commercial crops and let him grow cereals on the rest. I am not saying that this is a remedy for all time. Better times may come. But in the circumstances in which we are placed today, with hunger facing the people, when we have to spend Rs. 100 crores and odd for importing foodgrains from foreign countries...*(Prof. N. G. Ranga*: 'Put all the kisans in jails.') On the other hand I would give responsibility to the kisan, make him an important man in the village and make him responsible. I am making the suggestions to the Government. It is our party that is ruling. What is happening in my part of the Presidency is this. The villager does not produce sufficient foodgrains even for his own consumption. He goes to the nearest *shandy*, takes a car and goes there and he purchases it from the market. Even the agriculturist who can produce foodgrains for his own consumption utilises his land for growing cotton or groundnut seed or sugarcane. He does not care because he comes along with me who is not a producer to the ration shop with a card and purchases his foodgrains. In spite of all my affection and the affection of my friend Prof. Ranga for the agriculturist, can we put up with this? It is practically a strike. A strike without our knowledge is going on in the villages. The strikes which take place in factories are known, they are advertised, and it is said that so many man-hours are lost. I ask if the agriculturists are not striking today.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): It is the Government which is on strike.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am not throwing the blame on this or that person. I say the agriculturists therefore must be induced to do that. It is this agency which can accomplish it—the Agricultural Commission or Board and a Farmers' Council in each village. There should be compulsory crop planning. And then there should be no sales of foodgrains except through a co-operative society.

Besides cereals there are other things also. There is for instance fish. I do not eat fish or meat. But in every well in a house you must have developed such kind of small fish as can grow in that particular place. Fish eaters should be encouraged to eat fish. (*Interruption*). My friend here can eat fish and also drink. Therefore he can digest it. Whoever can eat other kinds of food must be encouraged to eat them. Dairying, poultry-farming and such other things must be attempted. This problem has to be attacked on all fronts; a single front is not enough. Our co-operation is always there. But our co-operation is primarily for eating. The co-operation of the Government is for production. I am glad of the reassuring statement made. But it need not be merely a statement hereafter. We expect that some drastic action will be taken.

Shri Satish Chandra (U. P.: General): Sir, the honourable Minister of Food and Agriculture by the announcement of a new policy has taken much wind out of the sails of a score of speakers who are to take part in to-day's debate. I think the statement of policy which he has made to-day is the result of genuine heart-searching and reorientation in outlook. It indicates that we have come to the conclusion that immediate and tangible results are the need of the moment and that the long-term plans, for which we were making efforts up till now, could yield no results in the near future. Therefore the new policy that has been outlined is welcome and I hope, it will solve some complex problems facing the country at present.

Within the short time at my disposal I will make only one or two suggestions. The policy outlined to-day is based on the principle that definite results must be shown by the Provincial Governments to justify the subsidy or the grant that they receive from the Central Government. I think that this principle should be extended a bit further.

The Federal Department of Agriculture in the United States of America has introduced a system of 'Efficiency Audit' and 'Efficiency Rating' of the persons employed under it. Most of the staff there is appointed on a contract basis, say on renewable contracts for two or three years. The entire set up of the Department is essentially rational. The persons who show good results are given high promotions and those who fail to achieve a certain amount of success or reach a definite target are either demoted or dismissed. Though we cannot possibly in the near future spend huge amounts of money or extend our organisation like the Federal Department of Agriculture, this principle can be applied, I am sure, with good results at the Centre and in the Provinces. Agricultural officers can be periodically rated on the basis of their efficiency and on the basis of work and the results that they show. This practice is being followed in another country and I do not see any reason why it cannot be adopted here. Some beginning in this respect has been made in my own Province, the United Provinces, where certain members of the staff of the Agricultural Department are asked to appear before a Manpower Committee; their work is assessed and they are either promoted or demoted. I think the other Provinces may also be advised to adopt some similar practice.

[Shri Satish Chandra]

Another thing that I would like to say is that there are a number of Committees—Commodity Committees, Boards and Councils—under the Ministry of Agriculture. I had occasion once in the previous session to point out that these Committees were not well constituted. They were constituted several years before the attainment of freedom, and I think all of them need overhauling. Representatives of the people who can adequately voice their feelings should be taken on those Committees. I had given examples on the previous occasion and I do not wish to repeat them. Most of the Committees were constituted by persons who can not adequately represent the interests of the growers or the consumers. Some of them were nominated on those Committees simply because they enjoyed favour of the powers a few years back.

Sir, the fruits of research have not reached the cultivator. This is a point which has been repeated several times in this House and I do not want to take much time over it. The honourable Minister, only a few days ago sent us a small cutting in which he acquainted us with the activities of the agricultural extension service in another country. I would submit that there should be a well-organised field extension and demonstration service. Demonstration on a government farm or at a central place, I am sure, does not help. The need is that these demonstrations should be carried to the village. The villager should not be asked to come to Government farms, but the demonstrations should take place in every village. There should be mobile units which should proceed from village to village. The cultivator should be convinced of the benefits of application of improved methods on his own field in his own village. If mobile units are attached to every agricultural farm in the Provinces, I think the yield per acre can be substantially increased by demonstrating improved methods on the cultivator's field. An outstanding feature of our agriculture is the tremendous waste—waste of soil, water, manure, seed, livestock, labour, time, money—I do not wish to go on enumerating them. There is not sufficient time to take them one by one and discuss the details. But much of this waste can be avoided by proper training, proper demonstration, by imparting education to the villager in the art of economic cultivation and by acquainting him with the researches that have been carried out.

Sir, I feel there should be greater co-operation between the Centre and the Provinces. The honourable Minister of Agriculture, while presiding over a Conference of Ministers of Agriculture from the various Provinces and States, in September last said:

"The main common difficulties which have been experienced are inadequacy of supply of coal, cement, iron and steel, fertilisers and machinery, apart from the delays caused in transport and in securing the sanction of the Central Government to Provincial schemes".

I would like to know if these defects have been tried to be remedied. I would like to know if something is being done to co-ordinate the activities of the various Ministries of the Government of India, and of the Central and the Provincial Governments, so as to expedite various schemes and to remove the difficulties which he had narrated.

In the end I will point out that we have to depend for our short-term plans largely on the utilisation of the indigenous resources. The other day a question was put to the honourable the Commerce Minister as to why oil-seeds are being exported and their export being encouraged. I would like to know whether the Ministry of Agriculture keeps in touch with the activities of the other Ministries in such matters. Oilcakes have great manurial value and value as cattle-food. The Commerce Ministry is encouraging the export of oil-seeds, we were told to earn some foreign currency. If we really wish to utilise our indigenous resources and if we want quick results we cannot wait

for the Sindhri Fertilizer plant which will come into existence and operate several years hence. Why can't we utilise all the castor-cake as manure, and other cakes too, which are being exported in the form of oil-seeds without any regard to our agricultural requirements of manure and cattle-food. We earn foreign currency in order to get our food from abroad, while we are not utilising our own resources to reduce our requirements of imports from outside. I think the honourable Minister will kindly give his consideration to this problem.

श्री रामचन्द्र उपाध्याय : सभापति जी, जहां तक अन्न की पैदावार बढ़ाने का सवाल है, मैं समझता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री को जो वह जानते हैं उससे अधिक जानने की आवश्यकता नहीं है । जो वह जानते हैं वह काफी है । लेकिन गलती जो है वह यह है कि उस पर अमल नहीं हो रहा है । मैंने आपके पैम्फलेट को पढ़ा है । उससे मालूम होता है कि काफी अच्छी स्कीमें बन गई हैं लेकिन गलती यही है कि उनको अमल में नहीं लाया जाता । इसलिए जहां तक पैदावार को बढ़ाने का सम्बन्ध है मैं सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि इन तमाम स्कीमों को अमल में लाने का प्रयत्न किया जाना चाहिए ।

एक बात और जिसकी तरफ़ मैं आपकी तवज्जह दिलाना चाहता हूं और जिसको मैंने आपके पैम्फलेट में नहीं पाया है, वह यह है कि देश के अन्दर अन्न की पैदवार को बढ़ाने से ही आपकी सारी दिक्कतें हल नहीं हो जायंगी । पैदवार बढ़ाने के बाद अपको यह चाहिए कि आप अन्न की बरबादी को रोकें । मैंने देखा है कि इसके बारे में आपका विचार नहीं गया है । आपको मालूम होगा कि हमारे देश के अन्दर बहुत सी ऐसी सामाजिक कुरीतियां हैं जिनके अनुसार दो-दो सौ, चार-चार सौ आदमियों को दावत दी जाती है । मैं नहीं कह सकता कि देश के और किसी हिस्से के अन्दर यह रिवाज है या नहीं, लेकिन मेरी तरफ तो यह रिवाज है कि जब कोई मर जाता है तो उसके वारिसों को हजार-हजार दो-दो हजार आदमियों की दावत करनी पड़ती है । उसका फ़र्ज हो जाता है कि चाहे वह मकान बेचे पर उसे हजार दो हजार आदमियों की दावत देनी पड़ती है ।

इसके बाद मैं यह कहूंगा कि आजकल देहात में लोगों के पास पैसा हो गया है । उसको खर्च करने के लिये समाज के लोग उनको मजबूर करते हैं और उनको एक तरह की दावत देनी पड़ती है जिसको 'गंगोज' कहते हैं । यानी गंगाजी के नाम पर लोगों को खिलाया जाता है । इस तरफ मैं आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं कि अन्न काफी बरबाद हो रहा है । आप जानते हैं कि लड़ाई के वक्त विदेशी सरकार ने ऐसे बहुत से कानून जारी किये थे जिनसे उन्होंने इस बात की रुकावट डाली थी कि दावतों में जहां तक हो सके कम आदमी आयें । लेकिन वह विदेशी हुकूमत थी, उसको जनता का सहयोग प्राप्त नहीं था, इसलिए वह कामयाब नहीं हुई । आपके पास

[श्री रामचन्द्र उपाध्याय]

तो जनता का सहयोग मौजूद है । मैं समझता हूं कि अगर आप कोई ऐसा कानून बनायेंगे तो उसमें आपको अवश्य कामयाबी होगी । लेकिन जो भी मेजर (Measure) आप लें उसे स्ट्रांगली (strongly) लीजिये और उसकी सजा दस या बीस रुपये जुर्माने न रखिये बल्कि सख्त सजा रखिये तो कामयाबी होगी । हमारी रियासत में पिछले महाराज ने ऐसा कानून बनाया था कि जो कोई शख्स १६ बरस से कम के लड़के की शादी करेगा उसको ५०० रुपया जुरमाना देना होगा । तो लोग दस-दस बरस के लड़कों की शादी करने लगे और कहते थे कि हम शादी में हजार दो हजार रुपया खर्च करते हैं, ५०० रुपया जुरमाने में भी दे देंगे । इसलिए मैं कहूंगा कि जुरमाने की सजा से काम नहीं चलेगा। इसके लिए तो सख्त सजा चाहिए और पुलिस को आप हिदायत करें कि वह पूरी सख्ती से काम ले । मैं समझता हूं कि ऐसा करने से आपकी दिक्कत बहुत कुछ हल हो जायगी ।

दूसरी बात जो मैं बतलाना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि आप देहात में जाकर देखें, मैं यह नहीं कहता कि आपको मालूम नहीं है, आप बखूबी जानते हैं, कि किसान क्या खाता है । किसान सिर्फ सिका हुआ आटा उस पर नमक मिर्च रख कर खाते हैं । इसका यह असर होता है कि ज्यादा अन्न खर्च होता है इसलिए इस समस्या को भी आपको जरूर सुलझाना है । मैं जानता हूं कि इस मामले की तरफ आपकी तवज्जह है । मैं ने आपके पैम्फलेट में देखा है कि आपने लिखा है कि भोजन की न्यूट्रिटिव वैल्यू (nutritive value) लोगों को बतलाने के लिए आपने एक बुलेटिन (bulletin) निकालना शुरू किया है । लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि असल गलती यह है कि इस अनाज की समस्या को हमारे गांवों में रहने वाले या शहरों के रहने वाले ठीक तरह से नहीं समझते हैं । आपको चाहिए कि आप इस चीज को लोगों को महसूस करायें और इसके लिए एक English बुलेटिन से काम नहीं चलेगा अव्वल तो हमारे देश में कितने पढ़े लिखे आदमी है, उनमें अंग्रेजी पढ़े कितने हैं और उनमें भी कितने ऐसे बुलेटिनों को पढ़ने की तकलीफ करते हैं । इसके अलावा लोग यह समझते हैं कि जो कुछ किताब में लिखा है उसको वह जानते हैं । गांवों के लिए आपका काम अंग्रेजी बुलेटिनों से नहीं चलेगा और हिन्दी के बुलेटिनों से भी नहीं चलेगा । मैं समझता हूं कि अगर आप लोगों को यह चीज चलते फिरते सिनेमा के जरिये समझायें तो आपको कामयाबी मिल सकती है ।

तीसरी बात जो मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि आप बनास्पति घी फौरन बन्द कर दें । आपको कुछ मालदार आदमियों ने इस गलतफहमी में डाल रखा है कि हमारे यहां फैट की बहुत कमी है, इसलिए इसे जारी रखना चाहिए । लेकिन मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि यह बहुत खराब चीज है, इसको फौरन बन्द करना चाहिए। मैं नहीं समझता कि इसके लिए किसी साइंटिस्ट की राय की जरूरत है । अगर आपने इसे नहीं खाया है और शुद्ध घी खाते रहे हैं, तो तीन महीने इसे खाकर देखिये कि क्या नतीजा होता है, तब आपको मालूम हो जायगा । आपने अपनी स्पीच में, अपने पैम्फलेट में और सवालात के उत्तर में भी कहा है कि आपने कुछ साइंटिस्ट्स को इसकी जांच करने के लिए मुकर्रर किया है कि इस घी की क्या फुड वैल्यू (food value) है । मैं आपसे कहूंगा कि यह मालदार आदमियों का मामला है । इसका सुलझाना मुश्किल होगा । ये मालदार आसानी से आपको कामयाब नहीं होने देंगे । वह साल, दो साल या तीन साल तक रोड़े अटकाते रहेंगे और उनके पास ऐसा करने के साधन मौजूद हैं, और वह आपको असली नतीजे पर नहीं पहुंचने देंगे । अगर किसी एक आध साइंटिस्ट की राय मालूम करनी है तो इसे फौरन मालूम कर लीजिये और इसको फौरन बन्द कीजिए । इससे आप यही नहीं करेंगे कि आप लोगों के स्वास्थ्य को बढ़ायेंगे पर आप देश के पशु धन को भी बढ़ायेंगे । पशु धन के सम्बन्ध में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जब लार्ड लिनलिथगो यहां आये तो उन्होंने कैटिल ब्रीडिंग (Cattle breeding) में काफी दिलचस्पी ली थी । लेकिन उसके बाद कैटिल ब्रीडिंग की हालत बहुत खराब हो गई है । आपकी थ्योरीटिकल (theoretical) स्कीमें कोई काम में नहीं आ रही हैं । हमारी अलवर रियासत में दो ब्रीडें बहुत अच्छी होती थीं, एक मेवाड़ और दूसरी राठ । पर पिछले हिन्दू मुसलमानों के झगड़ों में यह बुरी तरह खराब हो गई और अब न आपको अच्छे बुल्स (bulls) मिलेंगे और न अच्छी गायें ही मिलेंगी । मैं कहूंगा कि आप इस तरफ खास तवज्जह दें और इस ब्रीड को बढ़ायें ।

उसके बाद मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो कोई स्कीम आप बनायें उसको रियासत में जरूर अमल में लायें । हमारे यहां हालत यह है कि कोई अग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट तक नहीं है । कैटिल ब्रीडिंग डिपार्टमेंट जो कि लार्ड लिनलिथगो के जमाने में काम करता था उसको बन्द कर दिया है और उसकी जगह एक डेरी (Dairy) कायम कर दी गई है। इसलिए मेरा आपके प्रति निवेदन है कि आप रियासतों की तरफ खास तवज्जह दें । रियासतों में ऐसी

[श्री रामचन्द्र उपाध्याय

कुमत है जो यह समझती हैं कि वह सब कुछ जानती हैं, उनसे ज्यादा कोई काबिल नहीं है । और ऐसी बातों के लिये कह देते हैं कि हमारे पास पैसा नहीं है । इसलिए में कहूंगा कि रियासतों के मामले में आप आसानी से कामयाब नहीं होंगे । इसके लिए आपको सरदार पटेल की इमदाद लेनी होगी । उनके लिए तो आप जितने स्ट्रांग स्टेप्स (strong steps) ले सकते हैं लें, तभी आपकी स्कीमें वहां कामयाब हो सकती है ।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Ram Chandra Upadhyaya (United State of Matsya): Sir, as far as the question of increasing the production of food-grains is concerned, I think the honourable Minister does not stand in need of knowing anything more than what he already knows. Whatever he knows is sufficient. But the fault is that it is not being acted upon. I have read your pamphlet. It shows that good schemes have been devised but the mistake is that they are not brought into operation. Therefore as far as the question of the increasing of the production is concerned, I would like to submit only so much that efforts should be made to put into practice all these schemes.

Another thing, about which I wish to draw your attention and which I did not find in your pamphlet, is that simply by increasing the production of food-grains in the country all your difficulties will not be solved. After increasing the production you should try to stop the wastage of food-grains. I have seen that you have not taken this thing into consideration. You might be knowing that in our country many such bad customs prevail according to which feasts are given to 200-400 people at a time. I cannot say whether this custom prevails in other parts of the country as well or not, but in my side a custom is that when some one dies then his heirs have to give a feast to 1,000-2,000 persons. He becomes duty bound to give a feast to 1,000-2,000 persons though he may have to sell his house for this.

Next I would submit that these days the villagers have got pots of money. The people of their society compel them to spend the money and they have to give a kind of feast which they call *Gangoj i.e.* people are fed in the name of Ganges. I wish to draw your attention to the fact that substantial quantities of food grains are being wasted. You know that during the war time the British Government had enforced many such laws whereby they had placed a restriction that, as far as possible, the least number of persons may come in the feasts. But that was a foreign government. They did not have the co-operation of the public, therefore they did not succeed. But you have got the co-operation of the public. I think that if you would enact any such legislation you would surely be successful. But whatever measures you adopt, impose them strongly. Do not fix the punishment in the shape of fines of Rs 10/- or Rs. 20/- but give deterrent sentences; and only then you would be successful. In our State the late Maharaja had made such a law that any one who would perform the marriage of a boy of less than 16 years of age will have to pay a fine of Rs. 500/-. The result was that people began

to perform the marriages of even 10 year old boys, and used to say that when we spend thousands of rupees in the marriages, we would pay the fine of Rs. 500/- also. Therefore I would submit that the punishment of fine will not work. For this deterrent punishment should be fixed and the police be instructed to exercise fullest severity. I think that by doing so your difficulty will to a great extent be solved.

The other thing that I wish to submit is that if you were to go and see the rural areas, I do not want to say that you do not know, you would know what kind of food a peasant eats. The peasants eat only baked flour with salt and chillies. The result is that more food-grains are consumed. Therefore you have to solve this problem also. I know that you have this matter under consideration. I have read your pamphlet wherein you have mentioned that in order to tell the people the nutritive value of food you have begun publishing a bulletin. But I wish to submit that the main fault is that the people living in our rural or urban areas do not comprehend this problem of food grains properly. You should try to make the people realize this thing, and for this purpose only one English bulletin will not keep the work going. In the first place how many people in our country are literate, how many of them know English, and out of them how many take the trouble of reading such bulletins. Besides this the people think that they know all whatever is written in the books. As regards the villages your English bulletins will not work and even Hindi bulletins will not keep the work going. I think that if you would teach these things to the people with the help of mobile cinemas you can achieve success.

The third thing that I wish to submit is that you should at once stop the vegetable ghee. Some capitalists have created a wrong idea in our mind that there is a great dearth of fat in our country and so it should be continued. But I wish to submit that it is very injurious and should at once be stopped. I do not think the opinion of any scientist is necessary in this matter. If you have not taken it and have been taking pure ghee then take it for three months and see the result and only then would you know. You, in your speech, in your pamphlet and in the answers to the questions put to you, have said that you have appointed some scientists to test and ascertain the food value of this vegetable ghee. I would tell you that this matter concerns the capitalists. The solving of this problem will be quite difficult. These capitalists will not let you succeed quite easily. They will go on putting obstacles in your way for two or three years, and they have means to do so, and they will not let you come to any final result. If you have to ascertain the opinion of one or two scientists then do ascertain it at once and then directly stop its production. By doing so you will not only promote the health of the people but will also increase the cattle-wealth of the country. About the cattle-wealth I wish to submit that when Lord Linlithgow came to this country he took sufficient interest in cattle breeding. But after that the condition of cattle breeding has deteriorated very considerably. Your theoretical schemes are not at all proving serviceable. In our Alwar State two very good breeds of cattle were to be found, one was called Mewar and the other Rath. But during the last Hindu-Muslim riots these breeds got spoiled a great deal and now you would get neither good cows nor good bullocks. I would request you to pay special attention towards this and propagate this breed.

Next I wish to submit that whatever schemes you devise, you must bring them into operation in the States as well. The condition in my State is that even agriculture department is not there. The cattle-breeding department, that used to function during the days of Lord Linlithgow, has been closed down and a dairy has been started in its place. Therefore my humble submission to you is that you should pay special attention towards the

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States. The States have such governments that think that they know everything and no one else is more capable than them; and for such thing they say that they have no money. Therefore I would submit that as far as States are concerned you would not succeed so easily. For this you will have to take the help of Sardar Patel. For the States you take as strong steps as you can and only then your schemes will be successful there.

Shri H. Siddaveerappa (Mysore State): Sir, I am glad the Government have decided to put a stop to the import of food grains from 1951. That is a silver lining that we see in the otherwise dark horizon. But in order to see that this policy of stopping imports altogether is satisfactorily worked out, I would request the Government to consider the question whether the agriculturist is given sufficient incentive to produce the required quantity of food in this country itself. Sir, before the war nobody ever bothered about the agriculturist until a calamity like a famine occurred. But now the time has come when at last everybody's attention is drawn towards this neglected profession, and we have got to see that the agriculturist does not get into the whirlpool of another depression. Depression is bound to come, sooner or later.

After all in the last war after ten years the depression came. What happened then was, nobody bothered about the agriculturists, when they were selling their corn at the rate of Rupees Two per palla. Nobody ever cared to find out whether it was an economic holding, and whether agriculture was a paying industry and the time has come when the Government of India will have to take courage in both hands and try to secure by means of a legislative enactment on the model of the Agricultural Act, 1947, in the United Kingdom, wherein the State guarantees that if the price falls below a particular level it will step in and purchase that commodity. Sir, the present position is that so long as the profit motive is there in our economy, no agriculturists is promoted in to grow more, unless and until he is assured of a reasonable price for the commodity he grows. Of course, an honourable member suggested and rather complained stating that in India the agriculturist has taken to commercial crop and has started to strike by not producing food crop. Why is it? Every body knows how the agriculturist has suffered during this war. If at all there was anybody in the society who had to undergo all the sufferings that followed after the wake of these controls, it was the agriculturist. For other necessities of life like kerosene and any other thing, he had to purchase in the black-market, whereas his commodity was taken away for a controlled rate. Nobody knows how the prices were fixed. The figure for 1939 was taken as a basis for 100 as the index number and whether that figure allowed for him anything in the way of a margin of profit, and whether that point was taken into consideration, nobody knows. Therefore, when we take into consideration even in the year 1947 when rationing was at its maximum in 1,000 towns covering 148.8 millions of our population and the State had the monopoly of procurement and distribution, food crop was not available anywhere, at that time who fed the rest of the population, I would like to ask. Food was not available anywhere. Therefore, to say that the agriculturist has not played his part properly, seems to be the unkindest cut of all. Unfortunately he is the man who has not been able to stand on his own legs. He is the man who does not know how to safeguard his own interest. If only he had known how to safeguard his own interest, he could have taken proper care to see that his interest was also safeguarded. Therefore, in order to see the Government of India's ambition that no food grain is imported by the year 1951 is fulfilled, it is

absolutely essential that the Government should introduce a legislative enactment that for a particular period at least, the price that is to be fixed, an economic price, leaving him a margin of profit, is enforced.

[*At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy-Speaker (Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar).*]

Sir, I know it may be said it is a provincial subject. If need be, I should say that the Government of India Act will have to be amended with a view to see that the Centre takes the powers to pass that legislation, and I should submit that unless and until some incentive is given to the agriculturist by way of guaranteeing him at least a minimum price, the Government, I am afraid, may not get that co-operation and may not induce the agriculturists to give that amount of co-operation, which is absolutely essential to avert crisis in this food problem.

श्री ऐल० ऐस० भाटकर: सभापति जी, मैं मिनिस्टर साहब को उनके काम के लिये बधाई देना चाहता हूं। मैं जो कुछ इस समय कहना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि इस समय खेतीहर लोगों की हालत अच्छी नहीं है और उनको जितनी सरकार से मदद मिलनी चाहिये उतनी उनको मदद नहीं मिल रही है। खेतीहर लोग अपनी तरफ से जितनी महनत करते हैं उतनी मदद उनको सरकार की ओर से नहीं मिल रही है। इस समय खेतीहर लोग कर्जों के भार से दबे हुए हैं। साहूकार लोग उनको बहुत दुःख देते हैं जिससे वे लोग उनके भार से दबे चले जाते हैं। खेतीहर लोग जितनी खेती करते हैं वह सब उनको साहूकार लोगों के कर्ज उतारने में देना पड़ता है। इसलिये गवर्नमेंट को पहिले यह करना चाहिये कि जिस काश्तकार के ऊपर जो कर्जा का बोझ है उसको दूर करना चाहिये और काश्तकार की जो जमीन साहुकारों ने कर्जे में ली है वह काश्तकारों को वापिस दिला दी जाय। यह गवर्नमेंट का काम है कि जो पूंजीपति लोग है उनके पास जो ज्यादा जमीन है और जिस जमीन से वह पूरा आनाज पैदा नहीं कर सकते हैं वह काश्तकार को मिलनी चाहिये।

दूसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि जो काश्तकार अनाज पैदा करता है उसको इसका जो कुछ पैसा मिलना चाहिये वह उसको नहीं मिलता है। अक्सर यह देखने में आया है कि किसानों को अस्ली दाम उनके अनाज के नहीं मिलते हैं। मैं तो बरार प्रान्त से आया हूं। वहां तो कपास की पैदावार ज्यादा होती है। कपास के बारे में गवर्नमेंट की यह पौलिसी है और मैं इसको अच्छी तरह से जानता हूं कि जो कपास हमारी गवर्नमेंट ईरान ईराक और पाकिस्तान से खरीदती है उसका दाम वह यहां की कपास के दाम से दुगना देती है। हमारी सरकार इस के बदले में इन देशों को कपड़ा भेजती है। वह कैसे भेजती है वह यह है कि जो कुछ एवरेज निकलता है पाकिस्तान के कपास के भाव से ईराक और ईरान के कपास के भाव से और

[श्री ऐल० ऐस० भाटकर]

हिन्दुस्तान की कपास के भाव से जो एवरेज निकलता है उस भाव से कपड़ा उनको देती है। यह तो ऐसा हो गया कि "अन्धा पीसता है और कुत्ता खाता है"। इसका मतलब यह है कि काश्तकार अपनी मेहनत करता है मगर उसको उचित दाम नहीं मिलता। तो मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि जो कपड़ा इन देशों को जिस दामों पर भेजा जाता है उन दामों के हिसाब से हमारे काश्तकारों को कपास का दाम देना चाहिये।

दूसरी बात यह है कि काश्तकार जो अनाज पैदा करता है और जब वह उनको बाजार में ले जाता है तो ठीक उसी वक्त सरकारी कंट्रोल लग जाता है। काश्तकारों से भी कंट्रोल के भाव से वह अनाज लिया जाता है। जब काश्तकार का सब अनाज बाजार में चला जाता है और व्योपारियों के पास आजाता है तो तब सरकार कंट्रोल उठा देती है। काश्तकार के पास का सब स्टाक खत्म होजाता है तो उसको अपने खाने के लिये बाजार से दुगने भाव में अपना ही माल वापिस खरीदना पड़ता है। यह सरासर काश्तकारों पर अन्याय है खराब बात है जिसको मिटाना सरकार को अपना फर्ज समझना चाहिये। इससे सब लोगों को यह मालूम पड़ता है कि काश्तकारों की हालत कुछ अच्छी नहीं है। यही नहीं, जहां तक शिक्षा का सम्बन्ध है इस बात में भी काश्तकारों को बहुत कम मदद मिलती है। एग्रीकलचर कालेजों में जितनी सहूलियत काश्तकारों के लड़कों को मिलनी चाहिये थीं उतनी उनके लड़कों को नहीं मिलती हैं। अक्सर यह देखने में आता है कि वहां पर अमीर और शहरियों के लड़कों को ही भर्ती किया जाता है जिनका काश्तकारी से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं होता है। अगर इस चीज का परसेन्टेज निकाला जाय तो वहां पर सिर्फ एक या दो काश्तकार के लड़कों के पढ़ने के लिये लिया जाता है। इस कालेज में काश्तकारों का ही पैसा खर्च होता है मगर उनको इसका कोई फायदा नहीं मिलता है सरकार को इस तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिये। इन एग्रीकलचर कालेजों में काश्तकारों के ही लड़के लिये जाने चाहियें।

हमारे बरार में जमीन बहुत ही उपजाऊ हैं। जिस वजह से बरार को "सुन्ने की कराउ" कहते थे मगर आज उसकी हालत बहुत ही खराब है और काश्तकार अनाज का भी मोहताज है। अगर हमारी सरकार काश्तकारों को मदद दे, उनको पैसा दे और उनकी जमीन ठीक करने के लिये ट्रेक्टर और पानी दे तो वहां की जमीन में बहुत भारी पैदावार हो सकती है। गवर्नमेंट की मदद न मिलने की वजह से वहां बहुत सी उपजाऊ जमीन बेकार पड़ी हुई हैं। इसकी वजहें यह है कि जितनी अच्छी जमीन है उसके लिये काश्तकारों को जितना पैसा चाहिये, गवर्नमेंट से जितनी उनको मदद चाहिये, वह मदद उनको

गवर्नमेंट से नहीं मिलती है। इस वजह से जितना वहां गेहूं पैदा होना चाहिये उतना वहां पर नहीं होता है। गवर्नमेंट का यह काम है, उनको अच्छे बीज दिये जायें, और वहां पर जो कपास होती है उसके लिये भी सरकार को उनकी काफी मदद करनी चाहिये जिससे वहां पर काफी कपास पैदा हो सके। सरकार को काश्तकारों के लिये अच्छे से अच्छे बीज का प्रबंध करना चाहिये इन वजहों से जिन काश्तकारों की हालत कमजोर हो गई है, गवर्नमेंट का फर्ज है कि उनको हर तरह से मदद देनी चाहिये। उनकी हालत सुधारने के लिये गवर्नमेंट को हर प्रकार की मदद करनी चाहिये। मैं जो कुछ कहता हूं सरकार को उसकी ओर ध्यान देना चाहिये। मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो अपने भाषण में कहा है उससे हम काश्तकारों को कुछ फायदा जरूर होगा ऐसी मेरी राय है—मगर तो भी मेरी सूचनाओं की ओर श्री मिनस्टर साहब ध्यान देंगे ऐसी मैं आशा करता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech).

Shri L. S. Bhatkar (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I wish to congratulate the honourable the Minister for his work. What I wish to submit now is that the condition of the agriculturists these days is far from good and they are not getting that much help from the Government as they ought to have received. As compared to the hard work the agriculturists themselves are putting in they are not receiving much help from the Government. At present the agriculturists are being crushed under the burden of indebtedness. The money-lenders trouble them very much with the result that their burden of indebtendness goes on increasing. Whatever produce these agriculturists raise they have to hand over the whole of it towards the re-payment of their debts. Therefore, in the first place, the Government should take steps to liquidate the indebtedness of the agriculturists and they should be restored all the lands that the money-lenders have usurped against the settlement of their debts. It is the duty of the Government to see that those extra lands that are in the possession of the capitalists and who cannot raise full complement of food grains from them may be given back to the agriculturists.

The second thing that I wish to submit is that the agriculturists do not get the full price of the food grains they grow. It is often seen that the agriculturists do not get the full price of their food grains. I belong to Berar. On our side cotton is mainly grown. About cotton the policy of the Government is, and I know it quite well, that for the cotton our Government purchases from Iraq, Iran and Pakistan a price double than that of Indian cotton is paid. In exchange for this cotton our Government exports cloth to all these countries. The price of the cloth given to them is fixed by taking out the average of the market rates of cotton in Pakistan, Iraq, Iran and India. This is just like the proverb which means that fools grind and the wise enjoy. The result is that though the agriculturist puts in hard labour yet he does not get a reasonable price of his produce. I like to submit that our agriculturists should be given a price of their cotton in accordance to the price of the cloth that is charged from the countries to which it is exported.

The second thing is that when the agriculturists take their produce to the market just at that time the Government imposes control. The food grains are taken from the agriculturists at the control rate. When the entire produce of the agriculturists is marketed and stocked by the stockists then the Government lifts the control. When the stocks held by the agriculturists come to

[Shri L. S. Bhatkar].

an end and they have to purchase back from the market their own produce at double the price. This is definitely an injustice to the agriculturists. It is a bad thing and the Government must consider itself duty bound to eradicate this. From this it would be clear to every body that the condition of the agriculturists is far from good. Not only this, but as far as education also is concerned the agriculturists get little help. In agricultural colleges the children of agriculturists do not get as much facilities as ought to have been given to them. It is often seen that these colleges admit only the children of those rich and the urban people only, who have no connection at all with agriculture. If a percentage be determined then it would be found that only one or two children of the agriculturist class are admitted. The money spent on these colleges comes from the agriculturists yet they do not derive any advantage from them. The Government should attend to this. The children of the agriculturists only should be admitted to these colleges.

In Berar the land is very fertile and for this reason it was called a gold field. But today the condition is so very bad that the agriculturists are dying for want of food. If our Government were to help these agriculturists, give them money, provide tractors and irrigation facilities for re-claiming the land, huge quantities of food grains could be grown there. For want of Government help vast areas of fertile land are lying fallow. The reason is that considering the vast areas of fertile land, the agriculturists do not get as much monetary aid and Government help that they ought to have been given. The result is that the production of wheat is far less than what it ought to have been. It is the duty of the Government to supply them good seeds; and as regards cotton the Government should give them enough help so that the production of cotton may go up. The Government should make arrangements for the supply of better kinds of seeds.

For the reasons mentioned above the Government is duty bound to give every kind of help to those agriculturists whose pecuniary circumstances have become worse. In order to better their conditions the Government should give them every possible help. The Government should pay attention to what I submit. I think that we agriculturists will surely be benefitted by the measures referred to by the honourable Minister in his speech. Still I hope that the honourable the Minister will pay attention to the facts mentioned by me.

Shri Kala Venkata Rao (Madras: General): Sir, I support the Demand moved by the honourable Minister for Agriculture and Food. In view of the shortness of time I do not propose to go over the whole question which has been partly traversed by many honourable Members.

4 P. M

I wish to speak only on two points and the first of them is about the need for having a better arrangement with reference to procurement. According to our economists, we have in India a food deficit of only 10 per cent. That being so I do not see any reason why the country should be upset over its food requirements. No doubt there is a great outcry from every corner of the country that they want more food. But the figures published by Government, the newspapers and the economists only show that there is a deficit of 10 per cent. Therefore I do not think it will be very difficult to solve this problem.

As far as the question of food in concerned, leaving the question of agriculture alone, we have to start a good policy of procurement. I am very sorry to learn from the debate that took place here some time ago that certain provinces are not at all responding to the request of the Centre with reference to procurement schemes. I think that we must blame the provinces for that. One province has fulfilled only 2·5 per cent. of its procurement quota. In

Madras, though we had scarcity conditions prevailing for the last two or three years, the procurement figure was 20 per cent. and more. So I think that in the matter of allocation of food grains, the Centre is doing an injustice. My point is this: You ought to distribute your supplies on the basis of procurement in the provinces. Then alone the Provinces will respond properly. If this is not done, there will be laxity in procurement and there will be the difficulty of the provinces coming to the Centre asking for more allotment. It is due to this that there is laxity in procurement. It is only due to efficient procurement measures that certain provinces have been able to show greater procurement. As a matter of fact I can tell my honourable friends that provinces like the Central Provinces have not given their quota. I understand that even in the United Provinces procurement is a bit lax

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Neither is correct.

Shri Kala Venkata Rao: I am very glad to be corrected. But I want to know from the honourable Minister whether there is any Province in the country which has not produced its quota of procurement according to the scheme. If really there is such a province, it should not be given anything from the Central reserve till it procures to the limit to which it is asked to procure. That is my suggestion.

Now coming to the target fixed by the Government, I am very glad to hear that they are planning in such a way that by the end of 1951 there will be no more imports of food. It is very good. But we have to make the country self-sufficient in the meanwhile. For that, two things have to be done. First we have to improve the condition of the man who drives the plough. As every one knows he is not getting his due. We must pay speedy attention to the question of land tenures. There may be difficulties in the way. But we should not allow them to stand in our way. We should undertake legislation to that effect immediately and create in the man who cultivates the soil an interest in production and a contented life. If we do that, production will certainly increase.

The other point that I wish to speak upon relates to reclamation. Honourable Members have referred to this. The honourable Minister said that by 1951 he is going to reclaim 7 lakhs of acres. Reclamation work on a huge scale was done in Soviet Russia and also in Fascist Italy. Before the last War Mussolini brought under cultivation 70 lakhs of acres of swampy and marshy land. He spent large sums of money for the purpose. We have read reports about it which say that a town called Littoria was built in the course of this reclamation of the Pontine Marshes. Therefore, if we have the will we can do the same thing here.

Next I want to refer to the co-operative method of farming. I am one with my honourable friend Mr. Prakasam in thinking that co-operation should form the basis of decentralisation not only with reference to food and agriculture, but with reference to many other things also. I must confess, however, that I cannot agree with him in his advocacy of a hybrid type of society known as the Producer-cum-Co-operative Society. I think, on the other hand, that we must have in the country a number of multi-purpose co-operative societies which will deal with the needs of the common cultivator and then alone we will be able to produce more and distribute on an equitable basis and create non-scarcity conditions throughout the country. Therefore my request to the Honourable Minister is that in order to achieve his target in 1951, he should improve the condition of the agriculturists by legislation in the Provinces and by aid from the Centre and also introduce the system of multi-purpose co-operative societies as a decentralising factor. As I said, he should allot from the Centre food pool, quotas to Provinces on the basis of procurement made by each province.

I support the Demand.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U.P.: Muslim): Sir, so much has been said on this very important subject that, knowing that I have only a few minutes time, I shall confine myself to two points.

First I want to ask the honourable Minister as to what they have done about drawing up a programme of balanced diet for the people of this country. No one can minimise the importance of the value of the food from the health point of view. We do not know the nutritive value in calories or vitamins of the food we eat. Even the educated people here do not know it. For a country in which millions of people live in the villages, it is necessary for the Ministry of Food to make special efforts to publicise according to the income groups of the people what the best diet is. I would suggest that different tables suitable to the different age groups and different income groups should be prepared and supplied. We should know what the growing children of this country should be fed on in order to build up healthy bodies and also what the grown-ups should eat. We have no idea at all in this respect. This point has been raised many times before and yet nothing has been done. We have been given a lot of literature by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. I only wish that all the schemes laid down in these papers help in producing more food and improving the health of the people.

My second point relates to the productivity of the soil. In divided India it is estimated that 242 million acres are cultivated and we have about 89 million acres as culturable waste lands. Due to some reason or other all these waste lands cannot be brought under cultivation. It will require a very long period of time in order to bring all these waste lands under cultivation. The Government's programme of ploughing 6.2 million acres by means of tractors over a period of six years will not make the lands suitable for proper cultivation, as most of these are in unirrigated tracts and have many other handicaps, that is, bullocks, labour, seeds, implements etc. Another vital problem is that the newly, deep, tractor-ploughed areas may become vulnerable to erosion if care is not taken.

Opening up of certain tracts by means of tractor ploughing and heavy machinery is good to a certain extent only. It will be several years before the major irrigation projects are ready. Their utility need not be over-emphasised for improving agriculture. Again, if there are no proper soil-conservation measures, the massive dams will silt up in a few decades. What we need is not only more food production for a few years, but maintaining increased production from the land over hundreds of years. The problem is to preserve our cultivated lands and increase production and maintain their potentiality by means of good varieties of seeds, manures green manuring, irrigation water, field embankments, fuel plantations, improving grazing areas and implementing all-round soil conservation measures. In the U.S.A., during the war, by adopting soil conservation practices, from less acreage and with fewer men they increased the yields from farm lands by about 25 per cent. We know that in a highly industrialised country like America, over 60 per cent. of the industries of the nation are dependent indirectly or directly upon agriculture. I may bring to the notice of the House that for the production of textiles, wool, dairy industry, tractors and agricultural machinery, lumber mills, sugar, chemical manufacture, plastics, nylon, paints, varnishes etc. America depends on agricultural resources. If America, inspite of its being so highly industrialised, depends upon these agricultural resources, how much more must India which is an absolutely agricultural country depend upon them and how much more wealth can be produced if agriculture in this country is developed on proper lines. Therefore, I bring to the notice of the Government that soil

conservation measures should be taken up immediately. The potential wealth and living standard of the nation depends on its natural resources of soil wealth. If, through carelessness and neglet, these resources are wasted bevond a certain point, the whole structure of our national achievement must be impaired.

Shri H. R. Guruv Reddy (Mysore State): Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to say a few words. I heard the statement of the honourable Minister and the policy that was adumbrated just now. But, Sir, I do not think he ever mentioned how he is going to win over the cultivator of India. He seems to have said everything else but that, in detail. He is all good and all kind. There is nothing particular against him. but he is himself perhaps labouring under a particular syetem or a policy which is conducive to all others. I would like to ask which of the members of the Cabinet do really represent the cultivator of India.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya (Mysore State): None.

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister for External Affairs): Which of the members of this House represent?

Shri H. R. Guruv Reddy: I do not think there is any one who could put his hand on his heart and say that he is the one that represents him.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Except the speaker!

Shri H. R. Guruv Reddy: Well, Sir, the charge is levelled against him that he takes to economic crops and does not grow food crops. The Deputy-Speaker himself said that when he spoke, but I would like to draw the attention of this House to the fact that he is driven to grow economic crop, because he has to meet his daily needs. You want him to produce food crop but you do not want him to thrive in this country. How else can he get on except by growing a little commercial crops? That is the only method if he has to maintain himself. If you want to drivert him from growing commercial crop to growing food crop, give him the fair price for his product. What have you done so far? As some of the honourable Members have said, you have done nothing. I have been closely watching. Have you evaluated his own personal labour? Have you taken the value of his labour, of himself, his wife, his child or his servant? You have not done that. You have never cared to value the labour expended personally by him on his land. Have you taken care to see what is the value of the land that he has purchased or what is the market value of the land? You have not done that. What is the interest charge on that? What are his tools and plants? What is the manure? What is his seed? Have you ever taken into consideration all these aspects and then come to the conclusion that this is the cost of production of this unit? There is no scientific basis for price fixation in our country. As was stated, it was Rs. 90 or so year before last, it is now raised by a fish or a loaf being thrown at him, by Rs. 5 or 10. You call it an enhanced rate. Is that a fair price? Certainly not. You can never win over the agriculturist by these methods. The only true method, the only correct method, the only scientific method, by which you can call him to order is to evaluate his labour, to find out his standards of living, to improve his standards of living, by giving him facilities for his education, for his medicine, for his living and all the thing that he expects. Well, Sir, I should like to know whether you have at any time responded to his cries. You please compare the attention that you have given to labour on the one side and to that to agriculturists on the other. Every cry of the labour is satisfied by you. I would say at the same time that no cry of the agriculturist has so far been satisfied by you. Therefore, all this trouble has arisen. If you want that your demands must be satisfied, you

[Shri H. R. Guruv Reddy]

should rise to the occasion and see that you pay the proper price and not just take away his produce under procurement. If you do not listen to his just cries, it is a moral crime for you to extract his produce from him. I know how the law of procurement has been working. I have seen it. I have seen the methods of procurement, I have seen how they are enforced through the police. So many atrocities have been committed against the villager, the agriculturist proper. Several instances must have come to your notice also as to the kind of methods employed to secure as much as you wanted. He too is intelligent enough now to know that you shall not get. What is the position? In our times, we shall not allow this class of people to go into destitution, to become what I may say "desperate". I am thankful to the honourable Member Shri Prakasam and another honourable Member for sounding a note of warning, and I would elaborate it, if you pardon me, Sir. Communism is at the border. Do not allow it to come into our country. Do not allow that sort of mentality to get into our society by driving people by these procurement methods and not giving them the ordinary facilities for his cultivation, for the education of his children, for curing his diseases, for his maintenance, for keeping his body and soul together. Unless and until we ensure these things to him, we have no right—no moral right—upon him. Therefore, I would plead: if you want to keep Communism away from the borders of our land, please do something for him immediately. Raise his standard of living. As you are responding to labour because it is organised, so you should also rise to the occasion and see that the cultivator is satisfied and not allow him to get into a sort of Guild and give such trouble as the other section is giving. Let us not expect this innocent section to give us any trouble. They will not. They are not anxious to give anybody any trouble. They are not known to give any trouble anywhere. Let us see that they rise a little above the level in which they find themselves today. I plead that you should do everything in your power and in your capacity for these people and see that the agriculturist surrenders, not only surrenders, but he wants actually to give his excess produce. Evaluate what he is expected to grow and give him his return. As my friend said, the price that you fix need not necessarily be a fixed price for years and years to come. It should be the price which will keep him going in those standards you set for him. The standards should not be below the standards of the other labour class in whose favour you have been yielding so much every day. Please keep him satisfied and I am confident that you will get all that you want from him.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : सभापति जी, इस देश में हम खेती और पशु पालन को अलग अलग नहीं रख सकते । जिन देशों में खेती ट्रैक्टरों से होती है और सारा काम मशीनों से होता है वहां खेती के महकमे और पशु पालन के महकमे में कोई विशेष सम्बन्ध नहीं रहता और दोनों महकमे अलग अलग रहते हैं। पर जहां कि खेती बैलों के ऊपर निर्भर है वहां यदि हम खेती को अलग और पशु पालन को अलग करेंगे तो हम खेती में कोई उन्नति नहीं कर सकते । यहां पर खेती के लायक ३६ करोड़ एकड़ जमीन है और अभी जितने बैल हैं उनका हिसाब लगाने पर यह मालूम होता है कि हमें डेढ़ करोड़ बैलों की और जरूरत है । जहां हमारे देश में दिन पर दिन मनुष्यों की आबादी बढ़ती जाती है वहां पशुओं की संख्या घटती जाती है। हमारे यहां जब बैलों की इतनी कमी है तब हम ट्रैक्टरों पर करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करना चाहते हैं । मैं ट्रैक्टरों के खिलाफ़

वहीं हूं। मैं इस बात को मानता हूं कि हमको ट्रैक्टरों की भी जरूरत है, पर सिर्फ़ ट्रैक्टरों से हमारा काम चलने वाला नहीं है। दूसरी तरफ़ जहां हम बहुत थोड़ी लागत से और बहुत थोड़े प्रयत्न से गोबर और गोमूत्र से अनेक प्रकार का कम्पोस्ट खाद तैयार करा सकते हैं वहां हम करोड़ों रुपया फर्टीलाइज़र की फैक्टरियों पर लगा रहे हैं। मैं इस बात को मानता हूं कि हमको फर्टीलाइज़र्स की भी जरूरत है लेकिन हमको फर्टीलाइज़र्स के बनिस्बत कम्पोस्ट खाद की ज्यादा जरूरत है।

"ग्रो मोर फूड कैम्पेन" को आप देखिये। वहां पर सब चीजें मौजूद हैं, मांस मौजूद है, मछली मौजूद है, अंडे मौजूद हैं, लेकिन घी का और दूध का वहां कोई जिक्र नहीं है। यह देश जो बहुत हद तक निरामिष है उस में घी और दूध की बात हम "ग्रो मोर फूड कैम्पेन" में न करें, यह लज्जा की बात है। घी की जगह वैजीटेबुल घी बढ़ता जा रहा है। सरकारी रिपोर्टों से पता लगता है कि यहां सन् १९३७ में २३० लाख मन घी होता था वहां सन् १९४७ में घट कर १११ लाख मन हो गया है और बनास्पति घी सन् ३७ में साढे छः लाख मन होता था वहां सन् ४७ में वह पौने बत्तीस लाख मन हो गया है। हमें इस समय तेल की भी जरूरत है। मैं बनास्पति घी के कारखानों को बन्द करने की बात नहीं कहता लेकिन मैं इतना जरूर कहूंगा कि उसका हाइड्रोजिनेशन, बन्द करके केवल तेल बनाने का काम रखना चाहिये इस देश में जितने ज्यादा तेल की जरूरत है उसको देखते हुए मुझे यह विश्वास है कि अगर उसका जमाना बन्द कर दिया जायगा तो इन कारखानों को कोई नुक़सान नहीं होगा।

मैं कहना तो बहुत चाहता था लेकिन चूंकि समय की कमी है इसलिये मैं अपने सुझावों को एक एक वाक्य में ही रखूंगा। पहले मुझे यह कहना है कि यहां तक पशुओं के सुधार का मामला है वहां तक स्थानीय नसलों की उन्नति करनी चाहिये। वर्धा गो सेवा संघ ने इस काम को करके बता दिया है। लाल सिन्धी और साहिवाल गाय के बारे में हमको पता लग चुका है कि उनसे जो बैल पैदा होते हैं वह खेती के लायक नहीं होते। सरकारी ब्रीडिंग फार्मों में नसलों का सुधार इस प्रकार होना चाहिये जिससे कि हमको अधिक दूध वाली गायें और खेती के योग्य बैल भी मिल सकें। स्थानीय अच्छी नसलों की कमी होती जा रही है। हिसार में अब अच्छी गायें कम होती जा रही हैं। वह बाहर भेजी जा रही हैं। इसका नतीजा यह निकलेगा कि थोड़े दिनों में हमको अच्छी गायें नहीं मिलेंगी। बड़े शहरों में बम्बई कलकत्ता मद्रास में इनका जाना रोकना चाहिये, क्योंकि वहां पर ये गायें दूध देना बन्द करते ही कसाइयों के हाथ बेच दी जाती हैं।

[सेठ गोविन्ददास]

दूसरी बात चारे की है। एक तरफ़ तो इसकी इतनी इफ़रात है कि उसका उपयोग नहीं होता और दूसरी तरफ़ हमारे जानवर चारे की वजह से मर रहे हैं। जंगलों में साइलेज बना कर आप उसको रेल और ट्रकों द्वारा और जगहों पर पहुंचा सकते हैं। यदि और अन्न की ओर न देख अधिक रुपया देने वाली फ़सलें पैदा की जा रही हैं और लोग कहते हैं कि इससे हमको लाभ है। मैं कहता हूं कि इससे हमको हानि है। एक तरफ़ तो हम करोड़ों रुपयों का अन्न मंगा रहे हैं और उसमें रुपया दे रहे हैं और दूसरी तरफ़ हमको इस बात से सन्तोष हो रहा है कि हम इस तरह की फ़सलें तैयार कर रहे हैं कि जिनसे हमको रुपया मिल रहा है। अगर हिसाब लगाया जायगा कि कितना रुपया हमें मिल रहा है और कितना रुपया हम अन्न की पैदावार न होने के कारण बाहर से अन्न मंगवाने पर खर्च कर रहे हैं तो हमें मालूम होगा कि हमें इसमें हानि हो रही है।

फिर गाय के बाबत एक बात यह कही जाती है कि आदमियों को तो खाने को नहीं मिलता और गाय का ज़िक्र किया जाता है। लेकिन यह कहने वाले इस बात को भूल जाते हैं कि आदमी का खाना और गाय का खाना एक ही चीज से निकलता है। अगर हम अन्न उत्पन्न करें तो हमको भूसा मिलता है। अन्न तो आप बाहर से मंगा सकते हैं परन्तु भूसा नहीं मंगवा सकते। इसलिये हम जो गायों को खिला रहे हैं वह हम कोई आदमियों के पेट का अन्न नहीं खिला रहे हैं।

इसलिये मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हमको इस बात का ध्यान रखना चाहिये कि हमारे यहां पर खेती की उन्नति पशु पालन के बग़ैर नहीं हो सकती। इसके लिये पशु-वध बन्द होना चाहिये, और पशुओं की उन्नति होनी चाहिये। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि हम इस सम्बन्ध में इस समय बहुत कम काम कर रहे हैं।

(*English translation of the above speech*)

Seth Govind Das (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, in this country we cannot separate agriculture from animal husbandry. In the countries where tractors are used for agriculture and all the work is done with machines there the department of agriculture does not have any special connection with that of animal husbandry, and both the departments remain quite separate. But where the agriculture is dependent on bullocks there if we separate agriculture from animal husbandry, we cannot make any improvements in agriculture. Here we have 36 crores acres of arable land and after calculating the number of bullocks that we have at present, we come to know that we require one and a half crore more bullocks. While the population of our country goes on increasing day by day the number of live-stock is decreasing. Our country is short of bullocks and yet we wish to spend crores of rupees on tractors. I am not opposed to tractors. I acknowledge the fact that we do require tractors also, but tractors only are not going to serve our purpose. On the other hand while with very little prime cost and very little labour and effort we

can prepare many kinds of compost manure from cow dung and urine, we are spending crores of rupees on fertilizer factories instead. I acknowledge the fact that we stand in need of the fertilizers also but in comparison to the fertilizer we need compost manure more.

Just see the Grow More Food Campaign. All the things are there, meat is there, fish is there, eggs are there, but there is no mention at all of *ghee* and milk. In our country which is to a very great extent vegetarian, if we do not make a mention of *ghee* and milk in the Grow More Food Campaign then it is a matter of great shame. Instead of *ghee* the vegetable *ghee* is gaining ground. From the Government reports it is ascertained that while in 1937 the output of *ghee* was 230 lac maunds, the production in 1947 came down to 111 lac maunds; and while in 1936 the output of vegetable *ghee* was six and a half lac maunds in 1947 the produotion went up to 31-3/4 lac maunds. At present we require Oils also. I do not insist upon the closing down of the Vegetable *ghee* factories. But, this much I would certainly say that stopping its hydrogenation, only the work of the extraction of oils should be continued. Taking into consideration how much oil this country requires I believe that if its hydrogenation will be stopped then these factories will not be put to any loss.

I wished to submit more, but as the time is short I will place my suggestions in one sentence. In the first place I have to say that as far as the question of the improvement of the live-stock is concerned, the local breeds should be improved. The Wardha Gau Seva Sangh has demonstrated it practically. About the red Sindhi and Sahiwal cows we have come to know that the oxen born of them are not fit for agricultural purposes. In the Government cattle breeding farms the improvement of the breeds should be done in such a manner whereby we may get cows yielding greater quantities of milk, and oxen fit for agricultural purposes. The local good breeds are gradually deteriorating. In Hissar the number of good cows is decreasing. They are regularly being exported. The result of all this would be that in very near future we would not be able to get good cows. Their export to Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and other big towns should be stopped because there these cows, no sooner they stop giving milk, are sold to the butchers.

The other thing is about fodder. On one side it is so abundant that it is not being utilized and on the other our animals are dying for want of fodder. After converting it into silage in the jungles you can send it to other places by trains and trucks. Ignoring the fodder and food-grain crops more and more cash crops are being increasingly produced, and the people say that they make more profits by them. I say that we are put to loss by this. On one side we are importing food-grains worth crores of rupees and paying for them in cash and on the other side we are feeling satisfied that we are raising such crops that are giving us more money. If a balance be struck as to how much money we are getting and how much we are paying to foreign countries in order to import food-grains as a result of decline in the production of food-grains, then we would come to know that we are losing money in this.

It is said that even human beings do not get food what to say of the cows. But the people who say so forget that the food of the human beings and the fodder for the animals are derived from one and the same thing. If we grow food-grains we get chaff. You can import food-grains from foreign countries but you cannot import chaff. Therefore whatever we are feeding to the cows with, we are not feeding them out of the food meant for human beings.

I submit that we should keep in mind the fact that in our country improvement in agriculture cannot be made without animal husbandry. Therefore the slaughtering of animals should be stopped and the live-stock improved. I wish to submit to the honourable Minister that we are doing very little in this respect.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): It is certainly gratifying and satisfactory for the House to realize that the honourable Minister has decided to change his Grow More Food policy, and if anybody deserves congratulations for this I think it is this House which told him in no uncertain terms that the way in which he was trying to seek more food was not the way to get more food.

It is also well to hear, Sir, of a scheme which is going to replace the old Grow More Food plan. I hope, Sir, that the scheme will succeed and all our ambitions will be realized. By realizing those ambitions we will be lifting a heavy burden off the chest of the whole of India and the Finance Minister. But at the same time I would like to suggest that the entire attention in this regard may not be confined only to irrigated lands. We have been spending such a large amount on the 'Grow More Food' that if we take that whole amount, and utilise it I think it should suffice not only to intensify the cultivation in those soils under irrigation, but it would leave a sufficient margin to assist cultivators who are dependent on dry farming. The whole amount is sufficiently big. I know that the proportion of our expenditure on agriculture is very small. Nonetheless what we may have been spending on Grow More Food would I think place in the hands of the Agricultural Minister sufficient funds which, wisely spent, should yield far better results even from non-irrigated lands. I would suggest that in the scheme that is now chalked out the expenditure should be reduced to the minimum and it should be seen from time to time that whatever the Centre is spending is realised in the shape of positive results Then I am sure there would be a couple of crores of rupees at least easily available for financing the agriculturists in some of the provinces who have been very badly hit on account of bad crops during the last two or three years. That would be money which would not be lost and I for one am against making free gifts for any purpose whatsoever. Free gifts of anything have generally a demoralising effect. So it is better to keep an eye on the return. It may be that we will probably be disappointed in not getting the full return but at the same time money ought never to be given as a sort of mere Christmas gifts and distributed from province to province. We should of course insist upon getting some sort of return for the assistance that we give. In my opinion the main requirement in many parts is financial assistance to the agriculturists. Otherwise we would be spending crores of rupees in reclaiming waste land and on the other hand there would be lakhs of acres of land which would be lying fallow simply because the agriculturist is not in a position to keep cultivation going. That is exactly one of the problems that are staring in the face of the honourable Minister. I am told that the Central Provinces Government have reported that while we were trying to grow more food by reclaiming lakhs of acres of land in area 15 lakhs of acres have gone out of cultivation in another area. Where is then the sense in spending 150 crores to reclaim land when probably 1/10 or even 1/20th of it may have saved at least a portion of the 15 lakh acres of land from going out of cultivation. That is a serious problem to which I would like the honourable Minister to pay his earnest attention.

I cannot possibly touch any other important questions at length within the short time at my disposal and so I shall merely summarise my suggestions.

There was a proposal regarding crop insurance and I think some sort of investigation and training were going on. I am told that under the guise of economy the whole experiment is going to be dropped. I would suggest to the Minister that whatever little progress it has been possible to make should not be given up, because in the whole of India sooner or later there will have to be crop insurance on some scale or the other and from that point of view whatever assistance we can give, whatever information we can supply or trained

personnel we possess will be most useful. The expenditure is not much and I hope whatever we have spent will not be permitted to go waste. It will certainly be wasted if we give up the scheme completely all of a sudden.

I would suggest that there should be an effort at wholesale cotton pooling. I come from an area where cotton is extensively grown. As I have said before either here or elsewhere cotton is not a commodity which an average man requires. There is a market for it only in the mills. So it should be possible for the Government to eliminate a very large number of middlemen, so that the cotton is purchased by the Government at the highest possible rate and supplied to the mills at a fixed rate, by which it would be possible to save the loss which the agriculturists incur on account of the presence of the middlemen. Only then it would be possible to get the agriculturists to grow more cotton.

My friend referred to the system in America by which inefficient staff is eliminated and efficient staff given rapid promotions. If the honourable Minister takes the suggestion rather seriously he will have to deal very drastically, with his Ministry and with the people in the Agricultural Department. I think due to a wholesale incorporation of fresh blood there has been a considerable amount of inefficiency in his department and the suggestion which my honourable friend has made ought to be taken to heart, so that efficiency will increase and there will be better working of the department.

There is at least one more suggestion which I would like to make before I close so far as research is concerned. Research is done by younger men and I have known complaints that the men at the top often want to reap the fruits of the younger men's labours by getting the results of research published in their own names. I learn that on account of this the whole incentive for further research by the younger men is fast disappearing and there is more or less an end to any valuable research in the agricultural department. This is also another question which the honourable Minister should consider.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: General): Sir, coming at this late stage I can only refer to one or two difficulties that we feel. It is for the good that a target has been fixed within which we hope to be self-sufficient but I am very sorry to sound a note of warning that this goal is not going to be reached by the plans which the honourable Food Minister is proposing. There is absolutely nothing new in what he has said except the target. Every one of the matters which he referred to had been—what shall I say—given expression to but not acted upon in any province in India.

Taking first the question of making the agriculturists take to cereals what is the position? Take for instance my own district Coimbatore which depends on wells. If we ask the agriculturist to choose as between paddy and cotton, what will be the position? The yield is 8 podhies of cotton per acre which at the prevailing price of Rs. 140 per podhi will yield Rs. 1,120 per acre, whereas an acre yields only 20 salagais of paddy which at the rate at which Government is procuring from him gives him only Rs. 400 per acre. How are you justified in expecting any sane man to give up cotton which he can grow on the same land and go in for paddy cultivation? That is one question which the Government will have to consider seriously.

The second question is that if you are going to ask the man to do that, that is, to take to paddy what will be the position? Some of the agriculturists are going to be allowed to grow the costlier or more remunerative crops and you are going to force only some of them to undergo the sacrifice of growing paddy. Is it going to work? I do not think this sort of thing can work at all. There are only two ways of doing it. Either you ought to make the profit from paddy cultivation equal to that from other crops or you make the sacrifice equal and ask every cultivator on every land that grows any crop to grow at least one

[Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar]

food crop once in 18 months or so. I do not think there is any other way of doing it. You cannot make a few agriculturists sacrifice and others reap all the profits they can, nor is it possible to give the same profit, for instance, which a cotton grower or sugarcane grower gets from his crop to the man who grows paddy. Unless the Government is prepared to face that problem I do not think they are going to solve this question of food at all. The only possible method if you are going to tackle the problem seriously is to make the sacrifice equal and you ought to insist.....

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Should it not be extended to other classes also?

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: I am coming to that: don't be in a hurry. So you will have to make the sacrifice equal and you ought to insist that on every acre of land there should at least be one crop of cereal in about 18 months. I say 18 months for this reason. The sugarcane crop wants 12 months and the next cereal crop would require five or six months. So in eighteen months a man can grow both a sugarcane crop and a cereal. In other lands probably there will be three crops: the man can have for instance two commercial crops, one of cotton and another of something else, and a third cereal. So there will be no room for complaint. That is the only way to solve it. In America also when the New Deal came the Government took power to regulate the rotation of crops and insist upon reduction of cotton or wheat as might be found necessary. There a question will arise when you are doing it, if there is any inequality. What America did was it imposed a sort of excise on the costlier or the more profitable crop and with that financed or subsidised the poorer crop. Some such system will have to be adopted if we are going to seriously deal with this question. That seems to me to be the only way.

I may also say in this connection that all that has been done for the Grow More Food Campaign in the shape of supply of manure and other things have gone not for the paddy crop or for any cereal but they have gone only for the industrial crops. A man who is able to get Rs. 1, 120 per acre will certainly use the manure for the land on which he grows the commercial crop and not for the cropping of paddy from which he gets only Rs. 400. So the system that the Government has been adopting with reference to manure has yielded no result whatever.

As you yourself said, Sir, with reference to wells, three things have occurred. One is, as you said, that some pit was shown as a well dug and the money that was paid was divided among the officials concerned and the agriculturist. That was one class of cases. The second class of cases was the man thought he could get water, started digging a well, but could not get water. What was done was when somebody went to supervise he was paid some money and he reported 'the well is all right'. That was the second class of cases. In the third class of cases there was really a well with water but the well was never used for a food crop; it was always useful for an industrial crop. So all the money that has been spent for this Grow More Food Campaign was spent for other purposes and it went in different ways and not one acre of land was benefitted in the sense that cereals were grown and added to the food supply of the country. Sir, my time is up and I want to say only one word about the procurement policy which is adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable Minister has to reply.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: This is a very important matter and it has not been referred to by anybody.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think it is too late.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: I am sorry I was not able to catch the eye of the Speaker at any discussion with reference to food. I have had some practical experience in working it for a long time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am so sorry.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: I want only one or two minutes. What is done is this. In the villages the Government goes to procure. It is procuring actually in my Province all the so-called surplus from the agriculturists. What happens is the poor man has to yield and give not only the surplus but even that which is required for his needs. He is forced to give it. All sorts of persecution and all sorts of trouble are given to him and he has to yield. What is the result? What is procured is taken away to an urban area. It is not left in the village. When the grain is exhausted in the village probably within one month of the harvest it has got no grain whatever. Even though the Government publish with headlines that the quota has been raised to 12 ounces I have heard cases in the villages where they could not get even 2 ounces, and an order has been issued in some of the districts that only 4 ounces can be supplied. But there are cases in which even that 4 ounces was not available and they were told that there was no stock. Is this a proper way of doing things? I have heard that there have been villages where for two and three continuous days people could not get any cereals and they had to go without food. They had to live on roots and things like that. Is that a sensible way of doing things? On the other hand the richer man is able to purchase the officers and go his own way.

I will only say this. When I came here for the meeting in January the price of rice was.....

Mr. Deputy Speaker: May we not now hear the honourable Minister?

Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Sir, I have finished. The price of rice was 2-1/2 measures a rupee in January. Now I went there last week. It is 1-1/4 measures a rupee at the present moment. What does it show? Any amount is available in the market in spite of the procurement about which we are boasting. But the price has gone up like that. How is the poor man to live and how is the labourer to live? We are talking as if we are doing everything for the poor man and safeguarding his interest. You can see exactly what the actual position is.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Sir, I am afraid I may not be able to cover most of the points that have been referred to in the course of this very instructive and educative debate. I am grateful for numerous constructive suggestions which have been made to me and I do propose to go into the more important ones of those suggestions and in the course of informal discussions and contacts with the Members of the House to thrash out the details of those suggestions with a view to be able to implement them. I rather feel at a disadvantage when references are made to details of provincial administration and to incidents and facts relating to certain distant places, cities or villages in different provinces. These are spheres of action in which the Central Government can only, on receipt of specific cases, go into them, examine them, give suitable directions to take the necessary action. It is not possible from here to administer in detail the entire running of the procurement system in all the villages of India. We can give directions and see that these directions are carried out and I will be certainly thankful to all Members of the House who give me specific instances of the violations of the rules of procurement and any other hard cases that have come to their knowledge.

There are one or two important things to which I think I must make a reference however brief it may have to be on account of lack of time. Our colleague Shri Prakasam made a reference to the F.A.O. organisation. I think in fairness to truth and also in fairness to that organisation I will place very

[Shri Jairamdas Doulatram]

briefly this concrete fact before the House that not only after the war but from 1919 even undivided India had become an importer of foodgrains, and except for two particular years, 1924-25 and 1943-43, in all the other years undivided India had to import food grains. On an average about 13 lakhs tons of foodgrains had to be annually imported for instance from 1931 to 1939—years before the war and when India was undivided.

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C.P. and Berar: General): Rice?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Rice largely. And that part of India which is now with us used to import, in those years also, 8 to 10 lakhs tons of wheat from Punjab and Sind which now are parts of Pakistan. This simple fact should make us realise that it is not correct or fair to say that for any particular motive or reason the F.A.O. or any other organisations outside India, has anything particular to do with the necessities which make us import food grains.

Sir, I may refer to some very important recommendations which were put by you before you took the Chair. All that I can say is that they deserve the best possible consideration at the hands of Government and it will be our endeavour to take up immediately those which could be implemented without delay and much consideration. For instance: the question which has come up more than once in the course of the speeches today regarding some kind of arrangement whereby the cultivators feel interested in our plans of production, some kind of arrangement which makes the agriculturists feel that it is to their interest to increase the production of the country, some kind of arrangement which gives facilities and enables the agriculturists to take advantage of the result of research over which we have been spending lakhs of rupees every year of which there can be no doubt.

I had very briefly indicated in one or two sentences in the original statement that I read that we do intend to set up organisations of the farmers and the agriculturists and preferably of the multi-purpose type to which reference was made, so that more effectively than was possible before, not only the problems of food procurement and food distribution, but also the problems of food production could be properly settled. No Ministry of Agriculture, whether in the Provinces or in the Centre, can be indifferent to the interests of the agriculturists. Such indifference is economically unsound, it is politically unwise. Therefore, I can assure the honourable Members that we shall see that the interests of agriculturists in this production programme do not suffer.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: Is Government going to fix the price by investigation on an economic basis?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am sure the House will appreciate that in a matter of that nature where more than one Ministry is concerned and Government as a whole and governmental finances are concerned, it is not possible for me to make any definite commitment to a matter of specific detail of that nature. But all that I can say is that all possible steps will be taken to ensure that the agriculturists feel interested in the programme of production. I do not say what steps will be taken or will not be taken, that is naturally a matter for consideration and later decision. But I wish to put one point of view even before our agriculturists—partly it is indirectly a point of view, I may say, of self-interest. After all, it is true that the costs of production of the agriculturists are high, the means by which he has to produce anything from his field are costly, but is it not also a fact that in the cost of those materials and those resources whether human or material, the cost of food also is an element? The agricultural labourer, the implements of production, the

consumer goods, used in all these things which make up the cost of production, food itself is an important factor; and I do not say it is the only factor, but we cannot ignore that factor—it is a vicious circle, you may say, which we have got into. One of the ways in which we can get out of it is to increase—I won't say the extent, of acreage—the yield of production from the same acreage. It is intensive cultivation which properly dealt with, properly supported, properly carried out, should get us in this country twice and thrice the present yield per acre as it does in Japan or China or any other country in the West. It is intensive cultivation which is likely to solve many problems. The same agriculturist who has to produce food from a part of his land would be able to produce more food and therefore would be able to have increasing purchasing power with which to increase his standard of living. But I do not rule out the possibility of proper crop planning. I do not rule out the possibility of an agriculturist producing food on part of his land by intensive methods and also using part of his land for such other better-paying crops as the country needs. These are the things which will certainly require planning. But they are not matters which we can achieve in the course of a year or two. The very process of surveying, study, examination and all the research that has to be carried out with a view to find out what is the cost of production, what is the fair return from place to place, all these are matters which must take time. There is no doubt that a National Government, even within a year or two or its coming into power, must take up these questions and handle them properly.

Therefore, all that I wish to say so far as the agrioulturists' point of view is concerned is that I did not state without meaning that public policy needs reorientation with regard to the rural areas. Much is implied in it, but all that much can be implemented and carried out only in course of time, I welcome all the comment and criticism of the House because it puts pressure for quicker progress in the right direction. I believe this continuous education of public opinion, this continuous emphasis on certain fundamental matters will help us to achieve quicker progress.

There are one or two other matters to which I would wish to refer. Though the reference was brief, behind it lies a great deal—this reference was to the Indian States. I do believe that States have great potentialities and possibly the whole question of our food shortage and also shortage of cotton and jute and other agricultural products, can be solved if we are able to tap all those latent resources which lie in the Indian States. Administrative and other action is necessary, but I hope that that will be taken.

Reference was made by Seth Govind Das to a most important matter, and that was the welfare of cattle. With the welfare of cattle is linked the welfare of our agricultural production. A Committee was appointed by Government to deal with the whole question of cattle preservation. It went deeply into the problem and gathered all the evidence that was available and all the views that could be put forward and it has made three recommendations. While on one important recommendation on which at present the Provincial Governments hold opposite views Government can yet take no action pending full consideration. Government propose to take action in regard to the other recommendations for which it was suggested that immediate action should be taken. The Committee proposed that the following recommendations should be given effect to. The first stage which has to be given effect to immediately should cover the total prohibition of slaughter of all useful cattle other than those indicated below, that is, (a) animals of over fourteen years of age, and unfit for work and breeding, and (b) animals of any age permanently unable to work on breed owing to age injury or deformity. Unlicensed and unauthorised slaughter of cattle should be prohibited immediately and it should be made an offence under law. It is to be considered whether it is made a cognizable offence or non-cognizable. Subject to this Government propose to implement both these recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sorry I have to interrupt the honourable Minister.
5 P.M. It is a very interesting speech, however it is five o'clock and we cannot proceed further.

It is now 5 o'clock. I shall first put to the House the particular Demands which were under discussion and shall then put the remaining Demands to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,29,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Food'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,10,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Forest'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,91,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 69,86,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,56,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,88,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1950, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,66,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,17,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Indian Dairy Department'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,95,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests.'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Then there are the outstanding Demands.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With regard to item No. 106—Payment to Government of Pakistan for unique Institutions, may I know what is the meaning of unique institutions?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is to be no question and there will not be any answer. No question can be put now, and no answer will be given, and no debate will be allowed.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Sir, with the permission of the House, I want to withdraw my cut motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable Member's cut motion has lapsed.

The Demands on which the vote of the House is required are Nos. 11, 12, 14, 15, 30, 33, 38, 48, 61, 75 and 96.

DEMAND NO. 11—CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Constituent Assembly'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 12—CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,53,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 14—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,67,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 15—MINISTRY OF LAW.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,24,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Law.'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 30—MINISTRY OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.10,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 33—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,83,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of paymont during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 38—ECCLESIASTICAL.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Ecclesiastical'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 48—DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 85,92,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Department of Scientific Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 61—BROADCASTING.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,82,32,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 75.—EXPENDITURE ON REFUGEES.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,85,17,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Expenditure on Refugees'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 96—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.96,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1950, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Monday the 21st March, 1949.